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THE HECUBA OF EURIPIDES

With Introduction and Notes




by
W. S. Hadley

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THE

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THE
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WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

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PREFACE.

THE text of this edition of the *Hecuba* is in the main that of Prinz (Leipsic 1883), but, where difficulties occur, I have to the best of my ability endeavoured to weigh the evidence independently, and if I have been led to adopt conclusions other than his, I have written the text in conformity with my own views. Happily, in the *Hecuba*, textual difficulties are comparatively few, and, when we do meet with them, our task is more frequently to decide between the retention and the excision of lines which have stirred the somewhat easily roused suspicions of susceptible editors than to restore the mangled tradition of warring families of battered manuscripts. In dealing with the former class of questions, I have throughout inclined to a conservative view, partly on the narrower ground of lack of cogency in the destructive criticism applied to particular passages, partly on the general principle that such a method of criticism is a dangerous weapon in any save the most experienced and skilful hands.

As the *Hecuba* is a play which is usually read at an early stage of acquaintance with the Greek language, I have been careful to exclude from the explanatory commentary all discussions of the text, but have subjoined a brief notice

of the manuscripts and the more important variants and conjectures, with short critical remarks on some passages, for the use of any who return to Euripides when a little further advanced on the path of scholarship. Of such unfortunately the number is but small, and apart from a limited circle of enthusiastic admirers, the poet's audience is mainly confined to those who use his plays as the painful but necessary exercise-ground of syntax, and whose recollections, so far from being appreciative, are apt to be tinged with a certain bitterness and even scorn.

In writing the commentary, I have consulted the editions of Porson, Pflugk-Wecklein, Paley and many others of the numberless scholars who have edited or illustrated Euripides: but I have endeavoured to form an independent judgment on each question before referring to the notes of others, in the belief that a fresh point of view is more likely to be attained by an editor, who does not at once fly to the assistance of his predecessors, when wishing to explain a difficulty or illustrate a view. I have read with great pleasure the translation of the *Hecuba* by Mr Way, a translation which will I hope become as widely known as it deserves. The grammars to which I have referred are those of Hadley (Macmillan, 1884) and Thompson (*A Syntax of Attic Greek*, Rivingtons, 1883). Finally my warmest thanks are due to Mr R. A. Neil, who has read all the proof-sheets and has assisted me throughout with valuable suggestions and criticism. I am indebted also to Mr L. Whibley for much kind help.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE date of the production of the *Hecuba* is not certain, but from two pieces of internal evidence we may attribute it approximately to the year 425 B.C.: line 173 of the *Hecuba* is parodied by Aristophanes in the 'Clouds' (l. 1165), which was performed B.C. 423, and in line 462 reference is made to the recent re-establishment by the Athenians of the *Delia* in B.C. 426¹. The subject of the play seems to have been taken from one of the non-Homeric legends of the epic cycle, contained possibly in the *Ἰλίου πέρσις* of Arctinus of Miletus, an early poet of the eighth century B.C. If we accept B.C. 425 as the date of its production, Euripides was then a man of 55, and had been prominently before the public for 30 years, though of his extant dramas only four or five probably are of earlier date than the *Hecuba*.

Modern estimates of the tragedy have been mostly unfavourable, the objection urged against it being the apparent want of unity in the plot: the points raised in this criticism are in themselves interesting, and at the same time important, as affecting our appreciation of the play: I accordingly propose to devote a short time to their consideration. Is there then in the *Hecuba* a unity of design and a coherence of parts? The answer to this question I take to be affirmative: there is a unity of design which awakens what may be termed a collective interest, by bringing into line actions and events, which, though at first sight unconnected, yet by reference to some common centre become parts of a coherent whole: the effect thus

¹ Cf. note on line 456.

produced within the compass of a single play is comparable to that brought about on a larger scale by the older trilogy. The true unity to be sought for is the unity of the objective impression on ourselves, an answering echo of the unity of conception in the poet's mind, an effect beyond the reach of mere calculating workmanship and defying analysis. This trilogy *in petto* may be regarded as an experiment made by the youngest of the three great tragedians at a time perhaps when novelty alike of construction and of treatment was as much desired by the Athenian audiences as it was in accord with the poet's own standpoint and method, wherein in some ways he differed so widely from his two distinguished rivals. The central interest, which creates the unity of the *Hecuba*, is the character of the heroine, and the study of her change from submission to ferocity under the influence of the events represented in the play, events in themselves unconnected save by fortuitous turns of the plot, which nevertheless by their influence on the development of the leading character acquire an intimate co-relation with each other. The separate episodes of Polyxena, Polydorus¹, and Polymestor all serve in turn to bring out and illustrate the workings of Hecuba's broken but indomitable heart.

In the first act Hecuba overcome with grief is an entirely pathetic character: the blows she has received are severe indeed but inflicted legitimately by gods and open enemies. Her dispute with Odysseus, though during the altercation she calls attention to the meanness of his conduct in neglecting to repay past benefits, is couched in no fierce spirit of invective, and it is with the faint hope of kindling in his heart a shame which may lead him to relent, that she recalls to his memory the days of his distress. So at the end, when swooning with agony, she has no words of cursing save for Helen, guilty cause of all the bloodshed of the war: while the sympathetic bearing of Talthybius and his account of the honour paid by the Greeks to the heroism of Polyxena, help to assuage the proud mother's grief, and her mood becomes one almost of acquiescence in

¹ By the episode of Polydorus I mean that part of the play which deals with the discovery of his death.

the inevitable, finding vent in the utterance of sad reflections on the uncertainty of human happiness.

In the second episode how great the change ! The calamity which forms its subject is the same, the loss of a loved child : harder of course to bear as crowning a series of similar bereavements, but not so overwhelming in its intensity as to alter the very nature of one inured to woes as Hecuba by this time was. Further the blow was not entirely unanticipated¹. It is not the loss itself that transforms the mood of submission to one of vindictive fury : it is the circumstances of the tragedy : the death of the daughter amid the respectful admiration of her unwilling slayers, victim of a fate, cruel indeed, but nowise dishonourable, is a stately albeit touching scene : how different the picture of the son, sea-tost, unburied, disfigured by gaping wounds ; victim of the cupidity of one who professed himself a friend, but has proved a murderer and a breaker of the troth of hospitality. In the former case Hecuba could sadly acquiesce, bowing her head to Heaven's stroke, and meekly longing for the relief which death will some day bring even to her : but now she has one darling object to achieve, before the accomplishment of which death would be premature, she must take vengeance on the murderer, who, not in accordance with Heaven's will, but in despite of its most holy teaching, has wrought the death of a hapless boy entrusted to his charge in the sacred name of hospitality, amid every circumstance of shame and outrage, and crowned his infamy by refusing that burial, which alone could open the gates of a future life of honour in the nether world. What a contrast this to the passing of the daughter amid the sad praises even of her enemies and the generous desire of every Greek both high and low to dignify the descent of their heroic victim to the realms of Hades.

The second act has seen the sorrow-laden woman, submissive to the blows of fate, change to the implacable avenger of a foully slaughtered son : the third act portrays

¹ Cf. *Il.* 73, 429.

the vengeance, a vengeance horrible enough to stifle for the moment our pity for Hecuba, and our loathing for her victim, till we remember the hideous crime the fruits of which he now is reaping. A Greek audience would not forget that Polymestor is a barbarian, and that conduct which would be revolting if employed against a Hellene, is capable of palliation when directed against the brutal Thracian, who has no reverence for the will of the gods, or the rights of his fellow men. In Hecuba's veins too runs the same Eastern blood, passionate and vindictive, that had throbbed in Medea's breast, which can bear with fortitude the chances of life, the anger of gods or triumph of an open foe, but which pursues to the death the betrayer of honour or the traitor to a trust.

That the *Hecuba* is not a drama of episode, but a drama of character illustrated by episode, may I think fairly be maintained. Hecuba is the central figure which supplies unity to all the incidents grouped around it, and it is the influence of these incidents on her character which the poet would have us consider. It is not a play wherein the several characters of the actors, by their mutual and necessary action and reaction, conspire to bring about a certain result, but rather an object lesson in character, a study of a particular mind as affected by varying circumstances. Assuming this as the central idea of the play, there is no reason why the poet should not elaborate the subdivisions and paint with a firm hand the subordinate characters: this he has done, and with such success that the reader in admiration of detached parts is in danger of losing sight of the meaning of the whole. Polyxena, for instance, is so beautiful a creation, that one cannot avoid the feeling that, when she passes from the stage, she takes our thoughts and our interest with her, and leaves the play the poorer. The mad ravings of Polymestor and the details of his undoing are so realistic, that it is on them that we fix our attention, and for the moment become forgetful of the element in the play which they are designed to illustrate, not to efface. It is only when we remember that the character of Hecuba herself supplies the poet with his theme, that we can grasp the real

unity of a drama, which by reason of the beauty and the vigour of its separate scenes, has been roughly criticized as being not one play, but two. At the same time the adroitness of the transitions, or rather of the coupling together of the episodes, shows that Euripides was not unaware of the risk he ran of criticism on this ground. The discovery of the body of Polydorus, around whom centres the interest of the second act, by the very attendant sent to fetch water for the last sad rites due to the body of Polyxena, the heroine of the first episode, is extremely skilful; while the mention of Hecuba's twofold terror inspired by her dream prepares the spectators for a double catastrophe, quite apart from the preliminary sketch of the action supplied by the poet in the prologue.

In this play the prologue is of the ordinary Euripidean style and is open to the same attack and admits of the same defence as others of its class. The themes of tragedy, or at least the main features of those themes, were all well known to every Athenian audience. Homer and the Cyclic poets had been ransacked for their heroes, and audiences of the early and middle fifth century knew as well what would happen to Ajax or to Oedipus, as we know that Richard III. will die on Bosworth Field and Wolsey deplore the ingratitude of his king. So long as justness of sentiment, or illustration of the ways of gods to men, the drawing of types of character or the tracing out of fate, were felt to be the main objects of the tragedian, no prologue was required: it was not the tale, but the telling of it, that men looked to: but when Euripides claimed sympathy for very men and women, when gods and heroes descended, like Socrates' Philosophy, from heaven to earth, treading the same paths, pained by the same pains and rejoicing with the same joy, as the thronging crowds who felt the kinship of their suffering, then the old situations, the thread-bare plots, had lost their charm; new incidents, fresh developments must be discovered to be the vehicle of the new sympathy, and the explanatory prologue became a necessity as real for those days, as a play-bill is for ours.

Another point for which Euripides has had to bear the

brunt of much unfavourable criticism, the frequency of ἐπιδείξεις—of the forensic displays so dear to him and doubtless to his audiences also, receives illustration in this play. Hecuba in the agony of supplication for her daughter, Polymestor newly robbed of sight and children, do not forget the rules of pleading. To us there is something strangely cold in these precise measured echoes of the courts: but theatre and court were different then; as the Athenian theatre was more restrained than our modern stage, so the Athenian dicastery with its huge and irresponsible jury of men even then ever looking for some new thing, was more open to passionate appeals, than a bench of twelve men controlled by a skilled expounder of the laws. It is not for us to grumble: a poet, especially a dramatic poet, cannot be unaffected by the tastes of those whom he wishes to touch and influence: Shakspeare puns, but he is Shakspeare still, and if Euripides at times employed a method which was to the taste of his public, why should an age, not without literary vices of its own, abuse him for it? The same defence may be offered to the charge, justly enough brought against him, of sometimes philosophizing off the point and out of season: ideas with the dulness of 2000 years' repetition on them now, were bright once: bright enough to delight, perhaps to dazzle, audiences, which even we cannot call uncritical. Defects they may be, but defects sometimes reveal the touch of a human hand, just as the irregularities of a Persian rug, the waywardness of a piece of beaten iron, attract us more than the four-squareness of the productions of steam and rule.

Of the merits of the play it is a pleasant task to speak. Euripides' conception and drawing of the character of Hecuba have been already touched upon, but much remains to praise. In our poet's gallery of noble women none holds a higher place than Polyxena; not Alcestis, not Macaria. Patience, tenderness, purity, fortitude, noblest qualities of womanhood, elevated with the indefinable dignity conferred on virtue by high birth, are united in the character of the virgin princess, who appears but for one brief scene upon the stage, speaks little, yet leaves us filled with a sense of having been in converse with one

of the noblest creations of dramatic literature. To convey such an impression in so short a time, to paint such a portrait in a few strokes, is surely the work of a master, and argues too the existence of an ideal in the creator's mind, earnest, pervading, pure, which by its presence could enable him to draw so quickly and so well. We have but to remember this to dismiss at once the idle theories of Euripides' hate for women, theories which owe their existence to heedless reasoning from random lines divorced from their context and considered without reference to the character in whose mouth they are placed, or the occasion on which they are uttered. In *Odysseus* Euripides has drawn an able man of the world, of a type on which we may well imagine many a busy ambitious Athenian would have wished to fashion himself: destitute of that *οἶκτος*, which Thucydides' Cleon declared to be *ἀρχὴ ἀσυμφορώτατος*, yet not ruffianly: plausible of speech, quick of action, shrewd, patient, determined: by his side *Agamemnon*, king of men, becomes insignificant and lacks the dignity which his great position calls for: much as he wishes, he dares not aid *Hecuba* in her vengeance, lest the army should misunderstand his action: the captive queen fears not to taunt him with his lack of liberty, and though he does not waver in the trial scene, but gives sentence in the Trojan's favour and approves her deed, yet he effects no strong impression; he fails to make the reader feel that he is in the presence of a leader of men, and one is inclined to ascribe to the petulance of a weak nature his outburst of offended pride at the conclusion of the play, when he orders the wretched Thracian's exposure on a desert island as a punishment for his presumption in foretelling troubles in his home. Well drawn too is the character of *Talthybius*; most courteous of heralds, he must fulfil his task, albeit it pains him to add to the woes of one, Trojan though she be, whose misery makes him doubt the goodness, nay the existence, of the gods: tenderly almost does he tell the weeping mother the story of her child's brave death, giving what comfort may be given. There is one more picture, which by its dark colouring serves to bring into relief the other portraits which the poet

draws : the savage Thracian, faithless and covetous, who spoils and slays the fatherless child, and deepens the guilt of fraud and murder by that to the ancient world unpardonable crime, violation of the rights of hospitality, is an addition to the character-studies of the play, sombre indeed but effective, and serves to mark most clearly the exclusive feeling of the Greek, that barbarous and brutal were synonymous : strictly, of course, Hecuba is barbarous too, but the long and evenly-balanced struggle between Greeks and Trojans which formed the theme of the Hellene's bible, had raised the latter to equality with their conquerors. The choral odes remain for mention : although, in accordance with the practice of Euripides, they are of the nature of detached lyrics, yet they are directly suggested by and in accordance with the development of the action of the play : many and exquisite as are the choral songs scattered over his works, Euripides has never, in my judgment, given a finer example of his power than in that ode in which the captive women describe the fatal security, the surprise and carnage of the last night of Troy. In it he seems to have caught the inspiration of that romantic school, of which it is not too much to say he was the unconscious and unrecognized forerunner.

That the verdict of antiquity was favourable to the play is proved by the number of translations and imitations of it from Ennius onward. Echoes of it are found in Catullus and Propertius, in Virgil and Ovid : the latter poet may indeed almost be reckoned as a translator (cf. *Metam.* xiii. 407 sqq.), though Seneca has borrowed but little from it in his *Troades*. With the *Phoenissae* and *Orestes*, it formed the favourite reading book in the later Byzantine schools. The *Hecuba* was one of the first Greek plays translated by the French humanist Lazare de Baïf, while Erasmus put it into Latin, and the Venetian Luigi Dolce published an Italian version. Hamlet's player tells the story of the 'mobled queen,' and the sorrows of Hecuba became a phrase. One need not mention the imitations of the French classic drama, the exhausting *Polyxènes* of Pradon, of Lafosse, of Chateaubrun, save to introduce the profound comment of M. Patin, whose concluding words sum up for us the lessons of

the Attic theatre. "Je ne crois pas qu'on parvienne jamais à nous faire prendre en patience les calmes et contemplatifs développements de la tragédie grecque. Ce qu'il faut lui demander, ce ne sont pas ses sujets, ni la forme de ses drames, les uns usés et l'autre incompatible avec l'allure actuelle de notre imagination : c'est, s'il se peut, ce secret que nous cherchons encore, *d'être variés, mais sans bigarrure et sans disparate; vrais, mais d'une vérité choisie; simples, mais avec simplicité.*"

ARGUMENT.

First Episode.

THE scene is laid on the shore of the Thracian Chersonese, whither the Greek host had crossed after the fall of Troy. The fleet is delayed there by contrary winds.

1—58. Prologue spoken by the ghost of Polydorus; he describes his own murder by Polymestor, king of the district where the action takes place, who coveted the treasure which had been committed to him by Priam in trust for Polydorus. He also describes how the ghost of Achilles has appeared and claimed his sister Polyxena as a victim, to be slaughtered at his tomb, prophetically adding that the sacrifice will be carried out. He relates that he has appeared in a vision to his mother Hecuba, who

59—97 appears supported by some fellow captives: she describes the ominous dream, which has driven her forth filled with forebodings for the fate of her two children.

98—176. The chorus of Trojan captive women enter and announce to Hecuba the decision of the Greek generals to sacrifice Polyxena at the tomb of Achilles. Hecuba breaks into lamentation and summons her ill-fated daughter, who,

177—215 on hearing her doom, gives all her pity to the mother who will be left alone, but utters no complaint for herself.

216—331. Odysseus arrives with a formal announcement of the decree. Hecuba appeals to him for a return of the kindness she had once shown him in his need, and begs him to plead for her daughter, now her only stay and comfort. Odysseus, though acknowledging his obligation, refuses to do more than guarantee Hecuba's own personal safety, and urges the bad effect, which neglect to do honour to brave warriors after death produces, as a justification of his sternness.

332—381. Hecuba, seeing her own efforts fruitless, bids Polyxena plead her own cause. Odysseus is a father and may relent before a child's petition. Polyxena however expresses her more than willingness to die, contrasting her probable lot, if allowed to live, with what had once been her reasonable expectations as the daughter of a king.

382—443. Hecuba, to no purpose, offers her own life in exchange, and Polyxena, entreating her mother to submit to fate, takes an affecting leave of her, and follows Odysseus to her doom. Hecuba swoons and falls senseless to the ground, with a final imprecation on Helen, the cause of all her misery. A break in the action occurs here, which is marked

444—483 by a choral ode, in which the captive women speculate on the probable scene of their slavery, closing with a brief lament over their fallen country.

484—628. The herald Talthybius arrives, and after questioning the existence of gods who can permit such sorrows as Hecuba's to be, bids her tend the burial of her child. To Hecuba's request for particulars of the sacrifice, he replies by giving a touching account of the heroic maiden's last moments and of the admiring pity of the Greeks for her noble fortitude. The mother's grief is lightened by the recital of her daughter's glorious death, and she begs that orders may be given that the corpse shall not be disturbed, and that she may be permitted to render the last sad offices, as well as a captive may, to her daughter's remains. Thus ends the first episode.

Second Episode.

629—656. After a brief ode, tracing all their misery to Paris' fatal arbitrament on Ida, the chorus

657—722 are met by an attendant, who has been to fetch water for the funeral rites of Polyxena; she enquires for Hecuba, and after brief preface displays to her the body of her murdered son Polydorus, which she has discovered when on her quest for lustral water: the horror-stricken mother with her lamentations mingles curses on the faithless Thracian, whom she recognizes as the author of the crime.

723—904. Agamemnon appears, enquiring the cause of Hecuba's delay in carrying out the funeral rites of Polyxena, but seeing the corpse of Polydorus demands an explanation of this fresh catastrophe: after brief consultation with herself, Hecuba decides to tell Agamemnon all, and to beg his help in a scheme of vengeance she has planned. She does so, appealing to him as the vicegerent of the gods, whom Polymestor has outraged by his heinous breach of their most holy laws: in pathetic tones too she pleads for his pity, urging even his love for Cassandra as a ground for acceding to her request. Agamemnon professes his sympathy, and would willingly he says help her, but that the army counts the Thracian their friend, and her an enemy. Hecuba, half scornful of his timidity, asks that if he will not actively assist her, he will tacitly permit her to carry out herself a plan of vengeance. He consents and wishes her success.

905—951. The interval between this act and the next is filled by the chorus, who sing a most beautiful ode descriptive of the last night of Troy: how in false security the warrior was stretched in careless sleep, his wife lingering over her preparations for repose, when the war-cry of the Greeks was heard in the city, and in a moment all was carnage and destruction.

Third Episode.

952—1022. Polymestor, in response to a summons of Hecuba, appears with his two infant sons: she has, she says, a secret to reveal to him, the place of concealment of the treasure of the Trojan kings: also she would entrust to him some valuables which she has saved from Troy, and which she keeps concealed in the apartments of the captive women: let him dismiss his guards, and accompany her within, bringing his children to share the secret of the treasure, in case anything should happen to himself. He falls into the trap,

1023—1108 and, after a short choral ode of triumph, he is heard within screaming in agony, and after a few moments appears on the stage, blinded and mad with fury, breathing fierce threats of vengeance on the tigresses who have robbed him at once of sight and children.

1109—1295. Agamemnon, hearing the uproar, comes to learn its cause: Polymestor appeals to him, and gives a graphic description of the women's onset. he admits his murder of Polydorus, but assigns plausible and, as he thinks, satisfactory reasons for it: Hecuba answers, exposing the falseness of his pretences and showing that avarice was the only spring of his action. After a violent invective, she makes a final appeal to Agamemnon, who gives judgment in her favour: whereupon the baffled Thracian bewails his lot, but finds some little satisfaction in prophesying for Hecuba a violent and shameful end, for Agamemnon a faithless wife and cruel death. Enraged at his presumption, the Grecian leader orders him to be cast upon a desert island, while the captive women are bidden to return to their quarters, and prepare for their sad voyage to Greece and slavery.

ΕΥΡΙΠΙΔΟΥ ΕΚΑΒΗ.

Η. Ε.

ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΡΑΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ.

ΠΟΛΥΔΩΡΟΤ ΕΙΔΩΛΟΝ.

ΕΚΑΒΗ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΑΙΧΜΑΛΩΤΙΔΩΝ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ.

ΠΟΛΥΞΕΝΗ.

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ.

ΤΑΛΘΤΒΙΟΣ.

ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ.

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ.

ΠΟΛΥΜΗΣΤΩΡ ΚΑΙ ΟΙ ΠΑΙΔΕΣ ΑΥΤΟΥ.

Ἦκω νεκρῶν κευθμῶνα καὶ σκότου πύλας
 λιπών, ἔν' Ἀϊδης χωρὶς ᾤκισται θεῶν,
 Πολύδωρος, Ἐκάβης παῖς γεγώς τῆς Κισσέως
 Πριάμου τε πατρός, ὅς μ', ἐπεὶ Φρυγῶν πόλιν
 κίνδυνος ἔσχε δορὶ πεσεῖν Ἑλληνικῷ, 5
 δείσας ὑπεξέπεμψε Τρωικῆς χθονὸς
 Πολυμήστορος πρὸς δῶμα Θρηκίου ξένου,
 ὃς τήνδ' ἀρίστην Χερσονησίαν πλάκα
 σπείρει, φίλιππον λαὸν εὐθύνων δορί.
 πολὺν δὲ σὺν ἐμοὶ χρυσὸν ἐκπέμπει λάθρα 10
 πατὴρ, ἔν', εἴ ποτ' Ἰλίου τείχη πέσοι,
 τοῖς ζῶσιν εἴη παισὶ μὴ σπάνις βίου.
 νεώτατος δ' ἦ Πριαμιδῶν, ὃ καί με γῆς
 ὑπεξέπεμψεν· οὔτε γὰρ φέρειν ὄπλα
 οὔτ' ἔγχος οἶός τ' ἦ νέω βραχίονι. 15
 ἕως μὲν οὖν γῆς ὄρθ' ἔκειθ' ὀρίσματα
 πύργοι τ' ἄθραυστοι Τρωικῆς ἦσαν χθονὸς
 Ἐκτωρ τ' ἀδελφὸς οὐμὸς ἠντύχει δορί,
 καλῶς παρ' ἀνδρὶ Θρηκὶ πατρώῳ ξένῳ
 τροφαῖσιν ὥς τις πτόρθος ἠνξόμην τάλας. 20
 ἐπεὶ δὲ Τροία θ' Ἐκτορός τ' ἀπόλλυται
 ψυχὴ πατρώα θ' ἐστία κατεσκάφη,

αὐτὸς δὲ βωμῷ πρὸς θεοδμήτῳ πίτνει
 σφαγεῖς Ἀχιλλέως παιδὸς ἐκ μισαιφόνου,
 κτείνει με χρυσοῦ τὸν ταλαίπωρον χάριν 25
 ξένος πατρῶος καὶ κτανὼν ἐς οἶδμ' ἄλως
 μεθῆχ', ἵν' αὐτὸς χρυσὸν ἐν δόμοις ἔχῃ.
 κείμαι δ' ἐπ' ἀκταῖς, ἄλλοτ' ἐν πόντου σάλῳ,
 πολλοῖς διαύλοις κυμάτων φορούμενος,
 ἄκλαντος ἄταφος· νῦν δ' ὑπὲρ μητρὸς φίλης 30
 Ἑκάβης αἵτσω, σῶμ' ἐρημώσας ἐμόν,
 τριταῖον ἤδη φέγγος αἰωρούμενος,
 ὅσονπερ ἐν γῇ τῇδε Χερσονησία
 μήτηρ ἐμὴ δύστηνος ἐκ Τροίας πάρα.
 πάντες δ' Ἀχαιοὶ ναῦς ἔχοντες ἥσυχοι 35
 θάσσουσ' ἐπ' ἀκταῖς τῇσδε Θρηκίας χθονός·
 ὁ Πηλέως γὰρ παῖς ὑπὲρ τύμβου φανεῖς
 κατέσχ' Ἀχιλλεὺς πᾶν στράτευμ' Ἑλληνικόν,
 πρὸς οἶκον εὐθύνοντας ἐναλίαν πλάτην·
 αἰτεῖ δ' ἀδελφὴν τὴν ἐμὴν Πολυξένην 40
 τύμβῳ φίλον πρόσφαγμα καὶ γέρας λαβεῖν.
 καὶ τεύξεται τοῦδ' οὐδ' ἀδώρητος φίλων
 ἔσται πρὸς ἀνδρῶν· ἡ πεπρωμένη δ' ἄγει
 θανεῖν ἀδελφὴν τῷδ' ἐμὴν ἐν ἡματι.
 δυοῖν δὲ παῖδοιν δύο νεκρῶ κατόψεται 45
 μήτηρ, ἐμοῦ τε τῆς τε δυστήνου κόρης.
 φανήσομαι γάρ, ὥς τάφου τλήμων τύχῳ,
 δούλης ποδῶν πάροιθεν ἐν κλυδωνίῳ.
 τοὺς γὰρ κάτω σθένοντας ἐξητησάμην
 τύμβου κυρῆσαι καὶ χέρας μητρὸς πεσεῖν. 50
 τοῦμόν μὲν οὖν ὅσονπερ ἤθελον τυχεῖν
 ἔσται· γεραιᾶ δ' ἐκποδῶν χωρήσομαι
 Ἑκάβῃ· περᾶ γὰρ ἥδ' ὑπὸ σκηνῆς πόδα

Ἄγαμέμνωνος, φάντασμα δειμαίνουσ' ἐμόν.
φεῦ·

ὦ μήτηρ ἥτις ἐκ τυραννικῶν δόμων
δούλειον ἦμαρ εἶδες, ὥς πράσσεις κακῶς
ὅσονπερ εὖ ποτ'. ἀντισηκώσας δέ σε
φθείρει θεῶν τις τῆς πάροιθ' εὐπραξίας.

ΕΚΑΒΗ.

ἄγετ', ὦ παῖδες, τὴν γραῦν πρὸ δόμων,
ἄγετ' ὀρθοῦσαι τὴν ὁμόδουλον,

Τρῳάδες, ὑμῖν, πρόσθε δ' ἄνασσαν.
λάβετε φέρετε πέμπετ' αἰείρετέ μου
γεραιᾶς χειρὸς προσλαζύμεναι·

κάγῳ σκολιῷ σκίπωνι χερὸς
διερεοδομένα σπεύσω βραδύπου
ἧλυσιν ἄρθρων προτιθεῖσα.

ὦ στεροπὰ Διός, ὦ σκοτία νύξ,
τί ποτ' αἶρομαι ἔννυχος οὔτω
δείμασι φάσμασιν; ὦ πότνια χθών,

μελανοπτερύγων μήτηρ ὀνείρων,
ἀποπέμπομαι ἔννυχον ὄψιν,
ἣν περὶ παιδὸς ἐμοῦ τοῦ σφζομένου κατὰ Θρῆκην
ἀμφὶ Πολυξείνης τε φίλης θυγατρὸς δι' ὀνείρων
φοβερὰν ἐδάην.

ὦ χθόνιοι θεοί, σώσατε παῖδ' ἐμόν,
ὃς μόνος οἴκων ἄγκυρ' ἀμῶν
τὴν χιονώδη Θρῆκην κατέχει
ξείνου πατρίου φυλακαῖσιν.

ἔσται τι νέον,
ἥξει τι μέλος γοερὸν γοεραῖς.
οὔποτ' ἐμὰ φρὴν ὦδ' ἀλίσστος

φρίσσει ταρβεί.

ποῦ ποτε θείαν Ἑλένου ψυχὰν
καὶ Κασάνδραν ἐσίδω, Τρῳάδες,
ὥς μοι κρίνωσιν ὀνείρους;
εἶδον γὰρ βαλιὰν ἔλαφον λύκου αἵμονι χαλᾷ 90
σφαζομένην, ἀπ' ἐμῶν γονάτων σπασθεῖσαν ἀ-
νοίκτως.

καὶ τόδε δεῖμά μοι·

ἦλθ' ὑπὲρ ἄκρας τύμβου κορυφᾶς
φάντασμ' Ἀχιλέως· ἥτει δὲ γέρας
τῶν πολυμόχθων τινὰ Τρῳιάδων. 95
ἀπ' ἐμᾶς, ἀπ' ἐμᾶς οὖν τόδε παιδὸς
πέμψατε, δαίμονες, ἱκετεύω.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

Εκάβη, σπουδῇ πρὸς σ' ἐλιάσθην
τὰς δεσποσύνους σκηναὺς προλιποῦσ',
ἵν' ἐκληρώθην καὶ προσετάχθην 100
δούλῃ, πόλεως ἀπελαυνομένη
τῆς Ἰλιάδος, λόγχης αἰχμῇ
δοριθήρατος πρὸς Ἀχαιῶν,
οὐδὲν παθέων ἀποκουφίζουσ',
ἀλλ' ἀγγελίας βάρος ἀραμένη 105
μέγα σοί τε, γύναι, κῆρυξ ἀχέων.
ἐν γὰρ Ἀχαιῶν πλήρει ξυνόδῳ
λέγεται δόξαι σὴν παῖδ' Ἀχιλεῖ
σφάγιον θέσθαι· τύμβου δ' ἐπιβὰς
οἶσθ' ὅτε χρυσεῖς ἐφάνη σὺν ὅπλοις, 110
τὰς ποντοπόρους δ' ἔσχε σχεδίας
λαΐφῃ προτόνοις ἐπερειδομένας,

τάδε θωύσσω·

ποῖ δὴ, Δαναοί, τὸν ἐμὸν τύμβον

στέλλεσθ' ἀγέραςτον ἀφέντες;

115

πολλῆς δ' ἔριδος ξυνέπαισε κλύδων,

δόξα δ' ἐχώρει δίχ' ἂν Ἑλλήνων

στρατὸν αἰχμητήν, τοῖς μὲν διδόναι

τύμβῳ σφάγιον, τοῖς δ' οὐχὶ δοκοῦν.

ἦν δὲ τὸ μὲν σὸν σπεύδων ἀγαθὸν

120

τῆς μαντιπόλου Βάκχης ἀνέχων

λέκτρ' Ἀγαμέμνων·

τῷ Θεσείδῃ δ', ὅζῳ Ἀθηνῶν,

δισσῶν μύθων ῥήτορες ἦσαν·

γνώμη δὲ μιᾷ συνεχωρείτην,

125

τὸν Ἀχίλλειον τύμβον στεφανοῦν

αἵματι χλωρῷ, τὰ δὲ Κασάνδρας

λέκτρ' οὐκ ἐφάτην τῆς Ἀχιλείας

πρόσθεν θήσειν ποτὲ λόγχης.

σπουδαὶ δὲ λόγων κατατεινομένων

130

ἦσαν ἴσαι πως, πρὶν ὃ ποικιλόφρων

κόπῃς ἡδυλόγος δημοχαριστῆς

Λαερτιάδης πείθει στρατιὰν

μὴ τὸν ἄριστον Δαναῶν πάντων

δούλων σφαγίων εἵνεκ' ἀπωθεῖν,

135

μηδέ τιν' εἰπεῖν παρὰ Περσεφόνῃ

στάντα φθιμένων

ὥς ἀχάριστοι Δαναοὶ Δαναοῖς

τοῖς οἰχομένοις ὑπὲρ Ἑλλήνων

Τροίας πεδίων ἀπέβησαν.

140

ἥξει δ' Ὀδυσσεὺς ὅσον οὐκ ἤδη,

πῶλον ἀφέλξων σῶν ἀπὸ μαστῶν

ἔκ τε γεραιᾶς χερὸς ὀρμήσων.

ἀλλ' ἴθι ναούς, ἴθι πρὸς βωμούς,
 ἴζ' Ἀγαμέμνονος ἰκέτις γονάτων, 145
 κήρυσσε θεοὺς τοὺς τ' οὐρανίδας
 τοὺς θ' ὑπὸ γαῖαν.

ἦ γάρ σε λιταὶ διακωλύσουσ'
 ὀρφανὸν εἶναι παιδὸς μελέας,
 ἦ δεῖ σ' ἐπιδεῖν τύμβου προπετηῇ 150
 φοινισσομένην αἵματι παρθένον
 ἐκ χρυσοφόρου
 δειρῆς νασμῶ μελανανγεί.

ΕΚ. οἱ ἄγε μελέα, τί ποτ' ἀπύσω;
 ποῖαν ἀχώ, ποῖον ὀδυρμόν; 155

δειλαία δειλαίου γήρως,
 δουλείας τᾶς οὐ τλατᾶς,
 τᾶς οὐ φερτᾶς· ὦμοι μοι.
 τίς ἀμύνει μοι; ποῖα γέννα,
 ποῖα δὲ πόλις; 160

φροῦδος πρέσβυς, φροῦδοι παῖδες.
 ποῖαν ἦ ταύταν ἦ κείναν
 στείχω; ποῖ δ' ἦσω; ποῦ τις θεῶν
 ἦ δαίμων νῶν ἐπαρωγός;
 ὦ κάκ' ἐνεγκοῦσαι Τρῳάδες, ὦ 165

κάκ' ἐνεγκοῦσαι
 πῆματ', ἀπωλέσατ' ὠλέσατ'· οὐκέτι μοι βίος
 ἀγαστὸς ἐν φάει.

ὦ τλάμων ἄγησαί μοι
 πούς, ἄγησαι τᾷ γραίᾳ 170

πρὸς τάνδ' αὐλάν· ὦ τέκνον, ὦ παῖ
 δυστανοτάτας ματέρος, ἔξελθ'
 ἔξελθ' οἴκων· αἶε ματέρος
 αὐδάν, ὦ τέκνον, ὡς εἰδῆς

οἶαν οἶαν ἄτω φάμαν
περὶ σᾶς ψυχᾶς.

175

ΠΟΛΥΞΕΝΗ.

ἰώ,
μᾶτερ μᾶτερ, τί βοᾷς; τί νέον
καρύξασ' οἴκων μ' ὥστ' ὄρνιν
θάμβει τῷδ' ἐξέπταξας;

ΕΚ. οἴμοι, τέκνον.

180

ΠΟΛΤΞ. τί με δυσφημεῖς; φροίμιά μοι κακά.

ΕΚ. αἰαῖ, σᾶς ψυχᾶς.

ΠΟΛΤΞ. ἐξαύδα, μὴ κρίψῃς δαρόν.

δειμαίνω δειμαίνω, μᾶτερ,
τί ποτ' ἀναστένεις.

185

ΕΚ. τέκνον τέκνον μελέας ματρός.

ΠΟΛΤΞ. τί τόδ' ἀγγέλλεις;

ΕΚ. σφάξαι σ' Ἀργείων κοινὰ
συντείνει πρὸς τύμβον γνώμα
Πηλείδα γέννα.

190

ΠΟΛΤΞ. οἴμοι, μᾶτερ, πῶς φθέγγει
ἀμέγαρτα κακῶν; μάνυσόν μοι
μάνυσον, μᾶτερ.

ΕΚ. αὐδῶ, παῖ, δυσφάμους φάμας·

ἀγγέλλουσ' Ἀργείων δόξαι
ψήφῳ τᾶς σᾶς περί μοι ψυχᾶς.

195

ΠΟΛΤΞ. ὦ δεινὰ παθοῦς', ὦ παντλάμων,
ὦ δυστάνου μᾶτερ βιοτᾶς,
οἶαν οἶαν αὖ σοι λώβαν
ἐχθίσταν ἀρρήταν τ'
ὦρσέν τις δαίμων;
οὐκέτι σοι παῖς ἄδ' οὐκέτι δὴ

200

γῆρα δειλαίῳ δειλαία
συνδουλεύσω.

σκύμνον γάρ μ' ὥστ' οὐριθρέπταν, 205
μόσχον δειλαία δειλαίαν
εἰσόψει χειρὸς ἀναρπαστὰν
σᾶς ἄπο λαιμότομόν τ' Ἀῖδα
γᾶς ὑποπεμπομέναν σκότον, ἔνθα νεκρῶν μέτα
τάλαινα κείσομαι. 210

καὶ σοῦ μέν, μᾶτερ, δυστάνου
κλαίω πανδύρτοις θρήνοις,
τὸν ἐμὸν δὲ βίον, λώβαν λύμαν τ',
οὐ μετακλαίομαι, ἀλλὰ θανεῖν μοι
ξυντυχία κρείσσων ἐκύρησεν. 215

ΧΟ. καὶ μὴν Ὀδυσσεὺς ἔρχεται σπουδῇ ποδός,
Ἐκάβη, νέον τι πρὸς σέ σημανῶν ἔπος.

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ.

γύναι, δοκῶ μέν σ' εἰδέναι γνώμην στρατοῦ
ψῆφόν τε τὴν κρανθεῖσαν· ἀλλ' ὅμως φράσω.
ἔδοξ' Ἀχαιοῖς παῖδα σὴν Πολυξένην 220
σφάζαι πρὸς ὀρθὸν χῶμ' Ἀχιλλείου τάφου.
ἡμᾶς δὲ πομποὺς καὶ κομιστῆρας κόρης
τάσσουσιν εἶναι· θύματος δ' ἐπιστάτης
ἱερεὺς τ' ἐπέστη τοῦδε παῖς Ἀχιλλέως.
οἶσθ' οὖν ὃ δρᾶσον; μήτ' ἀποσπασθῆς βία 225
μήτ' ἐς χερῶν ἄμιλλαν ἐξέλθης ἐμοί·
γίγνωσκε δ' ἀλκὴν καὶ παρουσίαν κακῶν
τῶν σῶν. σοφόν τοι καὶ κακοῖς ἂν δεῖ φρονεῖν.

ΕΚ. αἰαῖ· παρέστηχ', ὡς ἔοικ', ἀγὼν μέγας,
πλήρης στεναγμῶν οὐδὲ δακρύων κενός. 230
κᾶγωγ' ἄρ' οὐκ ἔθνησκον οὗ με χρῆν θανεῖν,

οὐδ' ὤλεσέν με Ζεὺς, τρέφει δ', ὅπως ὀρώ
 κακῶν κάκ' ἄλλα μείζον' ἢ τάλαιν' ἐγώ.
 εἰ δ' ἔστι τοῖς δούλοισι τοὺς ἐλευθέρους
 μὴ λυπρὰ μηδὲ καρδίας δηκτήρια
 ἐξιστορήσαι, σοὶ μὲν εἰρήσθαι χρεῶν,
 ἡμᾶς δ' ἀκοῦσαι τοὺς ἐρωτῶντας τάδε.

235

ΟΔ. ἔξεστ', ἐρώτα· τοῦ χρόνου γὰρ οὐ φθονῶ.

ΕΚ. οἶσθ' ἡνίκ' ἦλθες Ἰλίου κατάσκοπος,
 δυσχλαινία τ' ἄμορφος, ὀμμάτων τ' ἄπο
 φόνου σταλαγμοὶ σὴν κατέσταζον γένυν;

240

ΟΔ. οἶδ'· οὐ γὰρ ἄκρας καρδίας ἔψαυσέ μου.

ΕΚ. ἔγνω δέ σ' Ἑλένη, καὶ μόνη κατεῖπ' ἐμοί;

ΟΔ. μεμνήμεθ' ἐς κίνδυνον ἐλθόντες μέγαν.

ΕΚ. ἥψω δὲ γονάτων τῶν ἐμῶν ταπεινὸς ὢν;

245

ΟΔ. ὥστ' ἐνθανεῖν γε σοῖς πέπλοισι χεῖρ' ἐμήν.

ΕΚ. τί δῆτ' ἔλεξας, δοῦλος ὢν ἐμὸς τότε;

ΟΔ. πολλῶν λόγων εὐρήμαθ', ὥστε μὴ θανεῖν.

ΕΚ. ἔσωσα δῆτά σ', ἐξέπεμψά τε χθονός;

ΟΔ. ὥστ' εἰσορᾶν γε φέγγος ἡλίου τόδε.

250

ΕΚ. οὐκουν κακύνει τοῖσδε τοῖς βουλευμασιν,
 ὃς ἐξ ἐμοῦ μὲν ἔπαθες οἷα φῆς παθεῖν,
 δρᾶς δ' οὐδὲν ἡμᾶς εὖ, κακῶς δ' ὅσον δύνῃ;
 ἀχάριστον ὑμῶν σπέρμ', ὅσοι δημηγόρους
 ζηλοῦτε τιμάς· μηδὲ γιγνώσκουσθ' ἐμοι,
 οἳ τοὺς φίλους βλάπτουντες οὐ φροντίζετε,
 ἣν τοῖσι πολλοῖς πρὸς χάριν λέγητέ τι.

255

ἀτὰρ τί δὴ σόφισμα τοῦθ' ἡγούμενοι

ἐς τήνδε παῖδα ψῆφον ὥρισαν φόνου;

259

πότερα τὸ χρῆν σφ' ἐπήγαγ' ἀνθρωποσφαγεῖν
 πρὸς τύμβον, ἔνθα βουθυτεῖν μᾶλλον πρέπει;
 ἢ τοὺς κτανόντας ἀνταποκτεῖναι θέλων

ἐς τήνδ' Ἀχιλλεὺς ἐνδίκως τείνει φόνον;
 ἀλλ' οὐδὲν αὐτὸν ἦδε γ' εἴργασται κακόν.
 Ἐλένην νιν αἰτεῖν χρῆν τάφῳ προσφάγματα·
 κείνη γὰρ ὤλεσέν νιν ἐς Τροίαν τ' ἄγει. 266
 εἰ δ' αἰχμάλωτον χρή τιν' ἔκκριτον θανεῖν
 κάλλει θ' ὑπερφέρουσαν, οὐχ ἡμῶν τόδε·
 ἢ Τυνδαρίς γὰρ εἶδος ἐκπρεπεστάτη,
 ἀδικοῦσά θ' ἡμῶν οὐδὲν ἦσσον ηὔρεθη. 270
 τῷ μὲν δικαίῳ τόνδ' ἀμιλλῶμαι λόγον·
 ἃ δ' ἀντιδοῦναι δεῖ σ' ἀπαιτούσης ἐμοῦ,
 ἄκουσον. ἥψω τῆς ἐμῆς, ὡς φῆς, χερὸς
 καὶ τῆσδε γραίας προσπίτνων παρηΐδος·
 ἀνθάπτομαί σου τῶνδε τῶν αὐτῶν ἐγώ· 275
 χάριν τ' ἀπαιτῶ τὴν τόθ' ἱκετεύω τέ σε,
 μή μου τὸ τέκνον ἐκ χερῶν ἀποσπάσης,
 μηδὲ κτάνητε· τῶν τεθνηκότων ἄλις. 278
 ἥδ' ἀντὶ πολλῶν ἐστί μοι παραψυχή, 280
 πόλις τιθήνη βάκτρον ἡγεμῶν ὁδοῦ.
 οὐ τοὺς κρατοῦντας χρῆ κρατεῖν ἃ μὴ χρεῶν,
 οὐδ' εὐτυχοῦντας εὖ δοκεῖν πράξειν αἰεί.
 καὶ γὰρ ἦ ποτ', ἀλλὰ νῦν οὐκ εἴμ' ἔτι,
 τὸν πάντα δ' ὄλβον ἡμαρ ἔν μ' ἀφείλετο. 285
 ἀλλ', ὦ φίλον γένειον, αἰδέσθητί με,
 οἴκτιρον· ἐλθὼν δ' εἰς Ἀχαιῶκόν στρατὸν
 παρηγόρησον, ὥς ἀποκτείνειν φθόνος
 γυναικάς, ἃς τὸ πρῶτον οὐκ ἐκτεínaτε
 βωμῶν ἀποσπάσαντες, ἀλλ' ὤκτίρατε. 290
 νόμος δ' ἐν ὑμῖν τοῖς τ' ἐλευθέροις ἴσος
 καὶ τοῖσι δούλοις αἵματος κεῖται πέρι.
 τὸ δ' ἀξίωμα, καὶν κακῶς λέγῃς, τὸ σὸν
 πείσει· λόγος γὰρ ἔκ τ' ἀδοξούντων ἰὼν

κακ τῶν δοκούντων αὐτὸς οὐ ταυτὸν σθένει.

ΧΟ. οὐκ ἔστιν οὕτω στερρὸς ἀνθρώπου φύσις, 296
ἥτις γόων σῶν καὶ μακρῶν ὀδυρμάτων
κλύουσα θρήνους οὐκ ἔν ἐκβάλοι δάκρυ.

ΟΔ. Ἐκάβη διδάσκου μηδὲ τῷ θυμουμένῳ 300
τὸν εὖ λέγοντα δυσμενῇ ποιοῦ φρενί.

ἐγὼ τὸ μὲν σὸν σῶμ' ὑφ' οὔπερ ἡντύχουν
σώξειν ἔτοιμός εἰμι, κοῦκ ἄλλως λέγω·

ἂ δ' εἶπον εἰς ἅπαντας οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι,
Τροίας ἀλούσης ἀνδρὶ τῷ πρώτῳ στρατοῦ
σὴν παῖδα δοῦναι σφάγιον ἐξαιτουμένῳ. 305

ἐν τῷδε γὰρ κάμνουσιν αἱ πολλαὶ πόλεις,
ὅταν τις ἐσθλὸς καὶ πρόθυμος ὦν ἀνὴρ
μηδὲν φέρηται τῶν κακιόνων πλέον.

ἡμῖν δ' Ἀχιλλεὺς ἄξιος τιμῆς, γύναι
θανὼν ὑπὲρ γῆς Ἑλλάδος κάλλιστ' ἀνὴρ. 310

οὐκουν τόδ' αἰσχρόν, εἰ βλέποντι μὲν φίλῳ
χρώμεσθ', ἐπεὶ δ' ὄλωλε, μὴ χρώμεσθ' ἔτι;

εἶεν· τί δῆτ' ἐρεῖ τις, ἣν τις αὖ φανῇ
στρατοῦ τ' ἄθροισις πολεμίων τ' ἀγωνία;
πότερα μαχούμεθ' ἢ φιλοψυχήσομεν, 315

τὸν κατθανόνθ' ὀρώντες οὐ τιμώμενον;
καὶ μὴν ἔμοιγε ζῶντι μὲν, καθ' ἡμέραν
κεῖ σμίκρ' ἔχοιμι, πάντ' ἂν ἀρκούντως ἔχοι·
τύμβον δὲ βουλοίμην ἂν ἀξιούμενον 319

τὸν ἐμὸν ὀράσθαι· διὰ μακροῦ γὰρ ἡ χάρις.
εἰ δ' οἰκτρὰ πάσχειν φῆς, τάδ' ἀντάκουέ μου·
εἰσὶν παρ' ἡμῖν οὐδὲν ἦσσον ἄθλιναι

γραῖαι γυναῖκες ἡδὲ πρεσβῦται σέθεν,
νύμφαι τ' ἀρίστων νυμφίων τητῶμεναι,
ὧν ἥδε κεύθει σώματ' Ἰδαία κόνις. 325

τόλμα τάδ'· ἡμεῖς δ', εἰ κακῶς νομίζομεν
 τιμᾶν τὸν ἐσθλόν, ἀμαθίαν ὀφλήσομεν·
 οἱ βάρβαροι δὲ μήτε τοὺς φίλους φίλους
 ἡγεῖσθε μήτε τοὺς καλῶς τεθνηκότας
 θαυμάζεθ', ὥς ἂν ἡ μὲν Ἑλλὰς εὐτυχῇ,
 ὑμεῖς δ' ἔχηθ' ὅμοια τοῖς βουλευμασιν. 330

ΧΟ. αἰαῖ· τὸ δούλον ὥς κακὸν πέφυκ' αἰεὶ
 τολμᾷ θ' ἂ μὴ χρή, τῇ βίᾳ νικώμενον.

ΕΚ. ὦ θύγατερ, οὐμοὶ μὲν λόγοι πρὸς αἰθέρα
 φροῦδοι μάτην ῥιφθέντες ἀμφὶ σοῦ φόνου· 335
 σὺ δ', εἴ τι μείζω δύναμιν ἢ μήτηρ ἔχεις,
 σπούδαζε πάσας ὥστ' ἀηδόνοσ στόμα
 φθογγὰς ἰεῖσα, μὴ στερηθῆναι βίου.
 πρόσπιπτε δ' οἰκτρῶς τοῦδ' Ὀδυσσέως γόνυ
 καὶ πεῖθ'. ἔχεις δὲ πρόφασιν· ἔστι γὰρ τέκνα
 καὶ τῷδε, τὴν σὴν ὥστ' ἐποικτίραι τύχην. 341

ΠΟΛΤΞ. ὀρῶ σ', Ὀδυσσεῦ, δεξιὰν ὑφ' εἵματος
 κρύπτοντα χεῖρα καὶ πρόσωπον ἔμπαλιν
 στρέφοντα, μὴ σου προσθίγω γενειάδος.
 θάρσει· πέφευγας τὸν ἐμὸν ἰκέσιον Δία· 345
 ὥς ἔψομαί γε τοῦ τ' ἀναγκαίου χάριν
 θανεῖν τε χρήζουσ'· εἰ δὲ μὴ βουλήσομαι,
 κακὴ φανοῦμαι καὶ φιλόψυχος γυνή.
 τί γάρ με δεῖ ζῆν; ἢ πατὴρ μὲν ἦν ἄναξ
 Φρυγῶν ἀπάντων· τοῦτό μοι πρῶτον βίου· 350
 ἔπειτ' ἐθρέφθην ἐλπίδων καλῶν ὑπο
 βασιλεῦσι νύμφῃ, ζῆλον οὐ σμικρὸν γάμων
 ἔχουσ', ὅτου δῶμ' ἐστίαν τ' ἀφίξομαι·
 δέσποινα δ' ἡ δύστηνος Ἰδαίαισιν ἢ
 γυναιξὶ παρθένοισ τ' ἀπόβλεπτος μέτα, 355
 ἴση θεοῖσι πλὴν τὸ κατθανεῖν μόνον·

νῦν δ' εἰμὶ δούλῃ. πρῶτα μὲν με τοῦνομα
 θανεῖν ἐρᾶν τίθησιν οὐκ εἰωθὸς ὄν.
 ἔπειτ' ἴσως ἂν δεσποτῶν ὤμων φρένας
 τύχοιμ' ἂν, ὅστις ἀργύρου μ' ὠνήσεται, 360
 τὴν Ἑκτορός τε χἀτέρων πολλῶν κάσιν,
 προσθεὶς δ' ἀνάγκην σιτοποιὸν ἐν δόμοις,
 σαίρειν τε δῶμα κερκίσιν τ' ἐφεστάναι
 λυπρὰν ἄγουσαν ἡμέραν μ' ἀναγκάσει.
 λέχη δὲ τὰμὰ δοῦλος ὠνητός ποθεν 365
 χρανεῖ, τυράννων πρόσθεν ἡξιωμένα.
 οὐ δῆτ'· ἀφίημ' ὀμμάτων ἐλευθέρων
 φέγγος τόδ', Ἄϊδη προστιθεῖς ἐμὸν δέμας.
 ἄγ' οὖν μ', Ὀδυσσεῦ, καὶ διέργασαί μ' ἄγων.
 οὔτ' ἐλπίδος γὰρ οὔτε του δόξης ὀρώ 370
 θάρσος παρ' ἡμῖν ὥς ποτ' εὔ πρᾶξαί με χρή.
 μῆτερ, σὺ δ' ἡμῖν μηδὲν ἐμποδὼν γένῃ,
 λέγουσα μηδὲ δρῶσα· συμβούλου δέ μοι
 θανεῖν πρὶν αἰσχυρῶν μὴ κατ' ἀξίαν τυχεῖν.
 ὅστις γὰρ οὐκ εἴωθε γεύεσθαι κακῶν, 375
 φέρει μὲν, ἀλγεῖ δ' αὐχέν' ἐντιθεὶς ζυγῶ.
 θανὼν δ' ἂν εἴη μᾶλλον εὐτυχέστερος
 ἢ ζῶν· τὸ γὰρ ζῆν μὴ καλῶς μέγας πόνος.
 ΧΟ. δεινὸς χαρακτήρ καπίσημος ἐν βροτοῖς
 ἐσθλῶν γενέσθαι, καπὶ μείζον ἔρχεται 380
 τῆς εὐγενείας ὄνομα τοῖσιν ἀξίοις.
 ΕΚ. καλῶς μὲν εἶπας, θύγατερ, ἀλλὰ τῷ καλῷ
 λύπη πρόσεστιν. εἰ δὲ δεῖ τῷ Πηλέως
 χάριν γενέσθαι παιδὶ καὶ ψόγον φυγεῖν
 ὑμᾶς, Ὀδυσσεῦ, τήνδε μὲν μὴ κτείνετε, 385
 ἡμᾶς δ' ἄγοντες πρὸς πυρὰν Ἀχιλλέως
 κεντεῖτε, μὴ φείδεσθ'· ἐγὼ ἵτερον Πάριν,

ὃς παῖδα Θέτιδος ὤλεσεν τόξοις βαλὼν.

ΟΔ. οὐ σ', ὦ γεραιά, κατθανεῖν Ἀχιλλέως
φάντασμά· Ἀχαιοὺς, ἀλλὰ τήνδ' ἠτήσατο. 390

ΕΚ. ὑμεῖς δέ μ' ἀλλὰ θυγατρὶ συμφονεύσατε,
καὶ δις τόσον πῶμ' αἵματος γενήσεται
γαίᾳ νεκρῷ τε τῷ τάδ' ἐξαιτουμένῳ.

ΟΔ. ἄλις κόρης σῆς θάνατος, οὐ προσοιστέος
ἄλλος πρὸς ἄλλῳ· μηδὲ τόνδ' ὠφείλομεν. 395

ΕΚ. πολλή γ' ἀνάγκη θυγατρὶ συνθανεῖν ἐμέ.

ΟΔ. πῶς; οὐ γὰρ οἶδα δεσπότης κεκτημένος.

ΕΚ. ὁποῖα κισσὸς δρυὸς ὅπως τῇσδ' ἔξομαι.

ΟΔ. οὐκ, ἦν γε πείθῃ τοῖσι σοῦ σοφωτέροις.

ΕΚ. ὥς τῇσδ' ἐκοῦσα παιδὸς οὐ μεθήσομαι. 400

ΟΔ. ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐγὼ μὴν τήνδ' ἄπειμ' αὐτοῦ λιπών.

ΠΟΛΥΞ. μῆτερ, πιθοῦ μοι· καὶ σύ, παῖ Λαερτίου,
χάλα τοκεῦσιν εἰκότως θυμουμένοις,
σύ τ', ὦ τάλαινα, τοῖς κρατοῦσι μὴ μάχου.
βούλει πεσεῖν πρὸς οὔδας ἐλκῶσαί τε σὸν 405
γέροντα χρώτα πρὸς βίαν ὠθουμένην,
ἀσχημονῆσαί τ' ἐκ νέου βραχίονος
σπασθεῖς, ἃ πείσει; μὴ σύ γ'· οὐ γὰρ ἄξιον.
ἀλλ', ὦ φίλη μοι μῆτερ, ἡδίστην χέρα
δὸς καὶ παρειὰν προσβαλεῖν παρηίδι· 410
ὥς οὔ ποτ' αὖθις, ἀλλὰ νῦν πανύστατον
ἄκτινα κύκλον θ' ἡλίου προσόψομαι.
τέλος δέχει δὴ τῶν ἐμῶν προσφθεγμάτων.
ὦ μῆτερ, ὦ τεκοῦς, ἄπειμι δὴ κάτω.

ΕΚ. ὦ θύγατερ, ἡμεῖς δ' ἐν φάει δουλεύσομεν. 415

ΠΟΛΥΞ. ἄνυμφος ἀνυμέναιος ὦν με χρῆν τυχεῖν.

ΕΚ. οἰκτρὰ σύ, τέκνον, ἀθλία δ' ἐγὼ γυνή.

ΠΟΛΥΞ. ἐκεῖ δ' ἐν Ἀϊδου κείσομαι χωρὶς σέθεν.

ΕΚ. οἷμοι· τί δράσω; ποῖ τελευτήσω βίον;

ΠΟΛΤΞ. δούλη θανούμαι, πατὺρ οὖς' ἐλευθέρου. 420

ΕΚ. ἡμεῖς δὲ πεντήκοντά γ' ἄμμοροι τέκνων.

ΠΟΛΤΞ. τί σοι πρὸς Ἑκτορ' ἢ γέροντ', εἴπω πόσιν;

ΕΚ. ἄγγελλε πασῶν ἀθλιωτάτην ἐμέ.

ΠΟΛΤΞ. ὦ στέρνα μαστοὶ θ', οἳ μ' ἐθρέψαθ' ἠδέως.

ΕΚ. ὦ τῆς ἁώρου θύγατερ ἀθλία τύχης. 425

ΠΟΛΤΞ. χαῖρ', ὦ τεκοῦσα, χαῖρε Κασάνδρα τ' ἐμοί.

ΕΚ. χαίρουσιν ἄλλοι, μητρὶ δ' οὐκ ἔστιν τόδε.

ΠΟΛΤΞ. ὅ τ' ἐν φιλίπποις Θρηξὶ Πολύδωρος κάσις.

ΕΚ. εἰ ζῇ γ' ἀπιστῶ δ'· ὥδε πάντα δυστυχῶ.

ΠΟΛΤΞ. ζῇ καὶ θανούσης ὄμμα συγκλήσει τὸ σόν. 430

ΕΚ. τέθνηκ' ἔγωγε πρὶν θανεῖν κακῶν ὕπο.

ΠΟΛΤΞ. κόμιζ', Ὀδυσσεῦ, μ' ἀμφιθεὶς κᾶρα πέ-
πλους·

ὥς πρὶν σφαγῆναί γ' ἐκτέτηκα καρδίαν

θρήνοισι μητρὸς τήνδε τ' ἐκτήκω γόοις.

ὦ φῶς· προσειπεῖν γὰρ σὸν ὄνομ' ἔξεστί μοι, 435

μέτεστι δ' οὐδὲν πλὴν ὅσον χρόνον ξίφους

βαίνω μεταξὺ καὶ πυρᾶς Ἀχιλλέως.

ΕΚ. οἱ ἄγῳ, προλείπω· λύεται δέ μου μέλη.

ὦ θύγατερ, ἄψαι μητρές, ἔκτεινον χέρα,

δός· μὴ λίπης μ' ἄπαιδ'. ἀπωλόμην, φίλαι. 440

ὥς τὴν Λάκαιναν σύγγγονον Διοσκόροι

Ἑλένην ἴδοιμι· διὰ καλῶν γὰρ ὀμμάτων

αἰσχιστα Τροίαν εἴλε τὴν εὐδαίμονα.

ΧΟ. αὔρα, ποντιάς αὔρα,

στρ. α'.

ἄτε ποντοπόρους κομίζεις

445

θοὰς ἀκάτους ἐπ' οἶδμα λίμνας,

ποῖ με τὰν μελέαν πορεύσεις;

τῷ δουλόσυνος πρὸς οἶκον

κτηθεῖς ἀφίξομαι;
 ἦ Δωρίδος ὄρμον αἴας 450
 ἦ Φθιάδος, ἔνθα τὸν
 καλλίστων ὑδάτων πατέρα
 φασὶν Ἀπιδανὸν πεδία λιπαίνειν; 454
 ἦ νάσων, ἀλιήρει ἀντ. α'.
 κῶπα πεμπομέναν τάλαιναν,
 οἰκτρὰν βιοτὰν ἔχουσαν οἴκοις,
 ἔνθα πρωτόγονός τε φοῖνιξ
 δάφνα θ' ἱεροὺς ἀνέσχε
 πτόρθους Λατοῖ φίλα 460
 ὠδῖνος ἄγαλμα Δίας;
 σὺν Δηλιάσιν τε κού-
 ραισιν Ἀρτέμιδος τε θεᾶς
 χρυσεὰν ἄμπυκα τόξα τ' εὐλογήσω; 465
 ἦ Παλλάδος ἐν πόλει στρ. β'.
 τᾶς καλλιδίφρου θεᾶς
 ναίουσ' ἐν κροκέῳ πέπλω
 ζεύξομαι ἄρα πώλους ἐν
 δαιδαλέαισι ποικίλλουσ' 470
 ἀνθοκρόκοισι πήναις,
 ἦ Τιτάνων γενεὰν
 τὰν Ζεὺς ἀμφιπύρῳ
 κοιμίζει φλογμῷ Κρονίδας; 474
 ὦμοι τεκέων ἐμῶν, ἀντ. β'.
 ὦμοι πατέρων, χθονός θ',
 ἃ καπνῷ κατερείπεται
 τυφομένα δορίκτητος
 Ἀργείων· ἐγὼ δ' ἐν ξεί-
 να χθονὶ δὴ κέκλημαι 480
 δούλα, λιποῦς Ἀσίαν,

Εὐρώπας θεράπναν
ἀλλάξας, "Αἶδα θαλάμους.

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ.

- ποῦ τὴν ἀνασσαν δὴ ποτ' οὔσαν Ἴλίου
Ἑκάβην ἂν ἐξεύροιμι, Τρωάδες κόραι; 485
- ΧΟ. αὕτη πέλας σου νῶτ' ἔχουσ' ἐπὶ χθονί,
Ταλθύβιε, κεῖται ξυγκεκλημένη πέπλοις.
- ΤΑ. ὦ Ζεῦ, τί λέξω; πότερά σ' ἀνθρώπους ὄρᾱν;
ἦ δόξαν ἄλλως τήνδε κεκτῆσθαι μάτην
ψευδῇ, δοκοῦντας δαιμόνων εἶναι γένος, 490
τύχην δὲ πάντα τὰν βροτοῖς ἐπισκοπεῖν;
οὐχ ἦδ' ἀνασσα τῶν πολυχρύσων Φρυγῶν,
οὐχ ἦδε Πριάμου τοῦ μέγ' ὀλβίου δάμαρ;
καὶ νῦν πόλις μὲν πᾶσ' ἀνέστηκεν δορί,
αὐτὴ δὲ δούλη γραῦς ἅπαις ἐπὶ χθονὶ 495
κεῖται κόνει φύρουσα δύστηνον κára.
φεῦ φεῦ. γέρων μὲν εἰμ', ὅμως δέ μοι θανεῖν
εἶη πρὶν αἰσχυρᾷ περιπεσεῖν τύχῃ τινί.
ἀνίστασ', ὦ δύστηνε, καὶ μετάρσιον
πλευρὰν ἔπαιρε καὶ τὸ πάλλευκον κára. 500
- ΕΚ. ἔα· τίς οὔτος σῶμα τοῦμόν οὐκ ἔᾱς
κεῖσθαι; τί κινεῖς μ' ὅστις εἰ λυπουμένην;
- ΤΑ. Ταλθύβιος ἦκω, Δαναϊδῶν ὑπηρέτης,
Ἀγαμέμνονος πέμψαντος, ὦ γύναι, μέτα.
- ΕΚ. ὦ φίλτατ', ἄρα καὶ ἐπισφάξαι τάφῳ 505
δοκοῦν Ἀχαιοῖς ἦλθες; ὥς φίλ' ἂν λέγοις·
σπεύδωμεν ἐγκονῶμεν· ἡγοῦ μοι, γέρον.
- ΤΑ. σὴν παῖδα κατθανοῦσαν ὥς θάψῃς, γύναι,
ἦκω μεταστείχων σε· πέμπουσιν δέ με

δισσοί τ' Ἀτρεΐδαι καὶ λεῶς Ἀχαιϊκός. 510

ΕΚ. οἶμοι, τί λέξεις; οὐκ ἄρ' ὥς θανουμένους
μετῆλθες ἡμᾶς, ἀλλὰ σημανῶν κακά;
ὄλωλας, ὦ παῖ, μητρὸς ἀρπασθεῖς' ἄπο·
ἡμεῖς δ' ἄτεκνοι τοῦπὶ σ'. ὦ τάλαιν' ἐγώ.
πῶς καὶ νιν ἐξεπράξατ'; ἄρ' αἰδοῦμενοι; 515
ἢ πρὸς τὸ δεινὸν ἦλθεθ' ὥς ἐχθράν, γέρον,
κτείνοντες; εἶπὲ καίπερ οὐ λέξων φίλα.

ΤΑ. διπλᾶ με χρήξεις δάκρυα κερδᾶναι, γύναι,
σῆς παιδὸς οἴκτῳ· νῦν τε γὰρ λέγων κακὰ
τέγξω τόδ' ὄμμα, πρὸς τάφῳ θ' ὅτ' ὥλλυτο. 520
παρῆν μὲν ὄχλος πᾶς Ἀχαιϊκοῦ στρατοῦ
πλήρης πρὸ τύμβου σῆς κόρης ἐπὶ σφαγᾶς·
λαβὼν δ' Ἀχιλλέως παῖς Πολυξένην χερὸς
ἔστησ' ἐπ' ἄκρου χώματος, πέλας δ' ἐγώ·
λεκτοί τ' Ἀχαιῶν ἔκκριτοι νεανῖαι, 525
σκίρτημα μόσχου σῆς καθέξοντες χεροῖν,
ἔσποντο· πλήρες δ' ἐν χεροῖν λαβὼν δέπας
πάγχρυσον αἶρει χειρὶ παῖς Ἀχιλλέως
χοᾶς θανόντι πατρί· σημαίνει δέ μοι
σιγὴν Ἀχαιῶν παντὶ κηρύξαι στρατῷ. 530
κἀγὼ παραστὰς εἶπον ἐν μέσοις τάδε·
σιγᾶτ', Ἀχαιοί, σίγα πᾶς ἔστω λεῶς,
σίγα σιώπα· νήνεμον δ' ἔστησ' ὄχλον.
ὁ δ' εἶπεν· ὦ παῖ Πηλέως, πατὴρ δ' ἐμός,
δέξαι χοᾶς μου τάσδε κηλητηρίους, 535
νεκρῶν ἀγωγούς· ἐλθὲ δ', ὥς πλήης μέλαν
κόρης ἀκραιφνὲς αἷμ', ὃ σοι δωρούμεθα
στρατός τε κἀγώ· πρευμενῆς δ' ἡμῖν γενοῦ
λῦσαι τε πρύμνας καὶ χαλινωτήρια
νεῶν δὸς ἡμῖν πρευμενοῦς τ' ἀπ' Ἰλίου 540

νόστου τυχόντας πάντας ἐς πάτραν μολεῖν.
τοσαῦτ' ἔλεξε, πᾶς δ' ἐπηύξατο στρατός.
εἴτ' ἀμφίχρυσον φάσγανον κώπης λαβὼν
ἐξεῖλκε κολεοῦ, λογάσι δ' Ἀργείων στρατοῦ
νεανίαις ἔνευσε παρθένον λαβεῖν. 545
ἦ δ', ὥς ἐφράσθη, τόνδ' ἐσήμνηεν λόγον·
ὦ τὴν ἐμὴν πέρσαντες Ἀργεῖοι πόλιν,
ἐκοῦσα θνήσκω· μή τις ἄψηται χροὸς
τοῦμοῦ· παρέξω γὰρ δέρην εὐκαρδίως.
ἐλευθέραν δέ μ', ὥς ἐλευθέρα θάνω, 550
πρὸς θεῶν μεθέντες κτείνατ'· ἐν νεκροῖσι γὰρ
δούλη κεκλήσθαι βασιλὶς οὔσ' αἰσχύνομαι.
λαοὶ δ' ἐπερρόθησαν, Ἀγαμέμνων τ' ἄναξ
εἶπεν μεθεῖναι παρθένον νεανίαις. 554
κἀπεὶ τόδ' εἰσήκουσε δεσποτῶν ἔπος, 557
λαβοῦσα πέπλους ἐξ ἄκρας ἐπωμίδος
ἔρρηξε λαγόνας εἰς μέσας παρ' ὀμφαλόν,
μαστούς τ' ἔδειξε στέρνα θ' ὥς ἀγάλματος 560
κάλλιστα, καὶ καθεῖσα πρὸς γαῖαν γόνυ
ἔλεξε πάντων τλημονέστατον λόγον·
ἰδού, τόδ', εἰ μὲν στέρνον, ὦ νεανία,
παίειν προθυμεῖ, παῖσον, εἰ δ' ὑπ' αὐχένα
χρήξεις, πάρεστι λαιμὸς εὐτρεπῆς ὅδε. 565
ὁ δ' οὐ θέλων τε καὶ θέλων οἴκτω κόρης,
τέμνει σιδήρῳ πνεύματος διαρροάς·
κρουνοὶ δ' ἐχώρουν· ἦ δὲ καὶ θνήσκουσ' ὅμως
πολλὴν πρόνοϊαν εἶχεν εὐσχήμως πεσεῖν,
κρύπτουσ' ἃ κρύπτειν ὄμματ' ἀρσένων χρεῶν. 570
ἐπεὶ δ' ἀφῆκε πνεῦμα θανασίμῳ σφαγῇ,
οὐδεὶς τὸν αὐτὸν εἶχεν Ἀργείων πόνον·
ἀλλ' οἱ μὲν αὐτῶν τὴν θανοῦσαν ἐκ χερῶν

φύλλοις ἔβαλλον, οἱ δὲ πληροῦσιν πυρὰν
 κορμούς φέροντες πευκίνους, ὁ δ' οὐ φέρων 575
 πρὸς τοῦ φέροντος τοιάδ' ἤκουεν κακά·
 ἔστηκας, ὦ κάκιστε τῇ νεάνιδι
 οὐ πέπλον οὐδὲ κόσμον ἐν χεροῖν ἔχων;
 οὐκ εἰ τι δώσων τῇ περισσ' εὐκαρδίῃ
 ψυχὴν τ' ἀρίστη; τοιάδ' ἀμφὶ σῆς λέγω 580
 παιδὸς θανούσης, εὐτεκνωτάτην δέ σε
 πασῶν γυναικῶν δυστυχεστάτην θ' ὁρῶ.

ΧΟ. δεινόν τι πῆμα Πριαμίδαις ἐπέξεσεν
 πόλει τε τῇμῃ θεῶν ἀναγκαῖον τόδε.

ΕΚ. ὦ θύγατερ, οὐκ οἶδ' εἰς ὃ τι βλέψω κακῶν, 585
 πολλῶν παρόντων· ἦν γὰρ ἄψωμαί τινος,
 τόδ' οὐκ ἔᾱ με, παρακαλεῖ δ' ἐκείθεν αὖ
 λύπη τις ἄλλη διάδοχος κακῶν κακοῖς.
 καὶ νῦν τὸ μὲν σὸν ὥστε μὴ στένειν πάθος
 οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην ἐξαλείψασθαι φρενός· 590
 τὸ δ' αὖ λίαν παρεῖλες ἀγγελθεῖσά μοι
 γενναῖος. οὐκουν δεινόν, εἰ γῇ μὲν κακὴ
 τυχοῦσα καιροῦ θεόθεν εὖ στάχυν φέρει,
 χρηστὴ δ' ἀμαρτοῦς ὦν χρεῶν αὐτὴν τυχεῖν
 κακὸν δίδωσι καρπὸν, ἄνθρωποι δ' αἰεὶ 595
 ὁ μὲν πονηρὸς οὐδὲν ἄλλο πλὴν κακός,
 ὁ δ' ἐσθλὸς ἐσθλὸς οὐδὲ συμφορᾶς ὑπο
 φύσιν διέφθειρ', ἀλλὰ χρηστός ἐστ' αἰεὶ;
 ἀρ' οἱ τεκόντες διαφέρουσιν ἢ τροφαί;
 ἔχει γε μέντοι καὶ τὸ θρεφθῆναι καλῶς 600
 δίδαξιν ἐσθλοῦ· τοῦτο δ' ἦν τις εὖ μάθη,
 οἶδεν τό γ' αἰσχροῦν, κανόνι τοῦ καλοῦ μαθών.
 καὶ ταῦτα μὲν δὴ νοῦς ἐτόξευσεν μάτην·
 σὺ δ' ἔλθῃ καὶ σήμηνον Ἀργείοις τάδε·

μὴ θιγγάνειν μοι μηδέν', ἀλλ' εἵργειν ὄχλον βοῶ
 τῆς παιδός. ἔν τοι μυρίῳ στρατεύματι
 ἀκόλαστος ὄχλος ναυτική τ' ἀναρχία
 κρείσσων πυρός, κακὸς δ' ὁ μὴ τι δρῶν κακόν.
 σὺ δ' αὖ λαβοῦσα τεῦχος, ἀρχαία λάτρι,
 βάψας' ἔνεγκε δεῦρο ποντίας ἁλός, 610
 ὥς παῖδα λουτροῖς τοῖς πανυστάτοις ἐμὴν
 νύμφην τ' ἄννυμφον παρθένον τ' ἀπάρθενον
 λούσω προθῶμαί θ', ὥς μὲν ἄξία, πόθεν;
 οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην· ὥς δ' ἔχω· τί γὰρ πάθω;
 κόσμον τ' ἀγείρας' αἰχμαλωτίδων πάρα, 615
 αἷ μοι πάρεδροι τῶνδ' ἔσω σκηνωμάτων
 ναίουσιν, εἴ τις τοὺς νεωστὶ δεσπότης
 λαθοῦσ' ἔχει τι κλέμμα τῶν αὐτῆς δόμων.
 ὦ σχήματ' οἴκων, ὦ ποτ' εὐτυχεῖς δόμοι,
 ὦ πλεῖστ' ἔχων κάλλιστά τ', εὐτεκνώτατε 620
 Πρίαμε, γεραιά θ' ἥδ' ἐγὼ μήτηρ τέκνων,
 ὥς ἐς τὸ μηδὲν ἤκομεν, φρονήματος
 τοῦ πρὶν στερέντες. εἶτα δῆτ' ὀγκούμεθα
 ὁ μὲν τις ἡμῶν πλουσίοισι δώμασιν,
 ὁ δ' ἐν πολίταις τίμιος κεκλημένος. 625
 τὰ δ' οὐδέν· ἄλλως φροντίδων βουλευμάτα
 γλῶσσης τε κόμποι. κείνος ὀλβιώτατος,
 ὅτω κατ' ἡμαρ τυγχάνει μηδὲν κακόν.

ΧΟ. ἐμοὶ χρῆν συμφοράν, στρ.
 ἐμοὶ χρῆν πημονὰν γενέσθαι, 630
 Ἰδαίαν ὅτε πρῶτον ὕλαν
 Ἀλέξανδρος εἰλατίναν
 ἐτάμεθ', ἄλιον ἐπ' οἶδμα ναυστολήσων
 Ἑλένας ἐπὶ λέκτρα, τὰν
 καλλίσταν ὁ χρυσοφαῆς 635

ἝΑλιος αὐγάζει.

πόννοι γὰρ καὶ πόνων

ἀντ.

ἀνάγκαι κρείσσονες κυκλοῦνται.

κοινὸν δ' ἐξ ἰδίας ἀνοίας

640

κακὸν τᾷ Σιμουντίδι γᾶ

ὀλέθριον ἔμολε συμφορὰ τ' ἀπ' ἄλλων.

ἐκρίθη δ' ἔρις, ἂν ἐν Ἰ-

δα κρίνει τρισσὰς μακάρων

645

παῖδας ἀνὴρ βούτας,

ἐπὶ δορὶ καὶ φόνῳ καὶ ἐμῶν μελάθρων λῶβα·

ἐπωδ.

στένει δὲ καὶ τις ἀμφὶ τὸν εὐροον Εὐρώταν 650

Λάκαινα πολυδάκρυτος ἐν δόμοις κόρα,

πολιόν τ' ἐπὶ κρᾶτα μάττηρ

τέκνων θανόντων

τίθεται χέρα δρύπτεται τε παρειάν,

655

δαίαιμον ὄνυχα τιθεμένα σπαραγμοῖς.

ΘΕΡΑΠΙΑΝΑ.

γυναῖκες, Ἑκάβη ποῦ ποθ' ἡ παναθλία,

ἡ πάντα νικῶσ' ἄνδρα καὶ θῆλυν σποράν

κακοῖσιν; οὐδείς στέφανον ἀνθαιρήσεται.

660

ΧΟ. τί δ', ὦ τάλαινα σῆς κακογλώσσου βοῆς;

ὥς οὐποθ' εὔδει λυπρὰ σου κηρύγματα.

ΘΕ. Ἑκάβη φέρω τόδ' ἄλγος· ἐν κακοῖσι δὲ

οὐ ῥάδιον βροτοῖσιν εὐφημεῖν στόμα.

ΧΟ. καὶ μὴν περῶσα τυγχάνει δόμων ὑπερ

665

ἥδ', ἐς δὲ καιρὸν σοῖσι φαίνεται λόγοις.

ΘΕ. ὦ παντάλαινα κᾶτι μᾶλλον ἢ λέγω,

δέσποιν', ὅλωλας κοῦκέτ' εἴ βλέπουσα φῶς,

ἅπαις ἄνανδρος ἄπολις ἐξεφθαρμένη·

- ΕΚ. οὐ καινὸν εἶπας, εἰδόσιν δ' ὠνείδισας. 670
 ἀτὰρ τί νεκρὸν τόνδε μοι Πολυξένης
 ἦκεις κομίζουσ', ἧς ἀπηγγέλθη τάφος
 πάντων Ἀχαιῶν διὰ χερὸς σπουδὴν ἔχειν;
- ΘΕ. ἦδ' οὐδὲν οἶδεν, ἀλλὰ μοι Πολυξένην
 θρηνεῖ, νέων δὲ πημάτων οὐχ ἄπτεται. 675
- ΕΚ. οἱ ἄγε τάλαινα· μῶν τὸ βακχεῖον κᾶρα
 τῆς θεσπιωδοῦ δεῦρο Κασάνδρας φέρεις;
- ΘΕ. ζῶσαν λέλακας, τὸν θανόντα δ' οὐ στένεις
 τόνδ'. ἀλλ' ἄθρησον σῶμα γυμνωθὲν νεκροῦ,
 εἴ σοι φανεῖται θαῦμα καὶ παρ' ἐλπίδας. 680
- ΕΚ. οἶμοι, βλέπω δὴ παῖδ' ἐμὸν τεθνηκότα,
 Πολύδωρον, ὃν μοι Θρηῆξ ἔσφ' οἴκοις ἀνὴρ.
 ἀπωλόμην δύστηνος, οὐκέτ' εἰμὶ δῆ.
 ὦ τέκνον τέκνον,
 αἰαῖ, κατάρχομαι νόμον 685
 βακχεῖον, ἐξ ἀλάστορος
 ἀρτιμαθῆς κακῶν.
- ΘΕ. ἔγνωσ γὰρ ἄτην παιδός, ὦ δύστηνε σύ;
- ΕΚ. ἀπιστ' ἀπιστα· καινὰ καινὰ δέρκομαι.
 ἕτερα δ' ἀφ' ἐτέρων κακὰ κακῶν κυρεῖ· 690
 οὐδέποτ' ἀστένακτος ἀδάκρυτος ἀ-
 μέρα ἐπισχῆσει.
- ΧΟ. δεῖν', ὦ τάλαινα, δεινὰ πάσχομεν κακά.
- ΕΚ. ὦ τέκνον τέκνον ταλαίνας ματρός, 695
 τίνι μόρῳ θνήσκεις, τίνι πότμῳ κεῖσαι;
 πρὸς τίνος ἀνθρώπων;
- ΘΕ. οὐκ οἶδ'. ἔπ' ἀκταῖς νιν κυρῶ θαλασσίαις.
- ΕΚ. ἔκβλητον, ἧ πέσσημα φοινίου δορός,
 ἐν ψαμάθῳ λευρᾷ; 700
- ΘΕ. πόντου νιν ἐξήνεγκε πελάγιος κλύδων.

- ΕΚ. ὦμοι, αἰαῖ, ἔμαθον ἐνύπνιον ὀμμάτων
ἐμῶν ὄψιν, οὗ με παρέβα φά-
σμα μελανόπτερον, 705
ἂν εἰσεῖδον ἀμφί σ',
ὦ τέκνον, οὐκέτ' ὄντα Διὸς ἐν φάει.
- ΧΟ. τίς γάρ νιν ἔκτειν'; οἷσθ' ὀνειρόφρων φράσαι;
ΕΚ. ἐμὸς ἐμὸς ξένος, Θρήκιος ἵππότης, 710
ἵν' ὁ γέρων πατήρ ἔθετό νιν κρύψας.
- ΧΟ. ὦμοι, τί λέξεις; χρυσὸν ὥς ἔχοι κτανών;
ΕΚ. ἄρρητ' ἀωννόμαστα, θαυμάτων πέρα,
οὐχ ὅσι' οὐδ' ἀνεκτά. ποῦ δίκαι ξένων; 715
ὦ κατάρατ' ἀνδρῶν, ὥς διεμοιράσω
χρόα, σιδαρέω τεμῶν φασγάνῳ
μέλεα τοῦδε παιδὸς οὐδ' ὥκτίσω. 720
- ΧΟ. ὦ τλήμον, ὥς σε πολυπονωτάτην βροτῶν
δαίμων ἔθηκεν ὅστις ἐστί σοι βαρὺς.
ἀλλ' εἰσορῶ γὰρ τοῦδε δεσπότης δέμας
'Αγαμέμνωνος, τούνθενδε σιγῶμεν, φίλαι. 725

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ.

- Ἐκάβη, τί μέλλεις παῖδα σὴν κρύπτειν τάφῳ
ἐλθοῦσ', ἐφ' οἷσπερ Ταλθύβιος ἤγγειλέ μοι
μὴ θιγγάνειν σῆς μηδέν' Ἀργείων κόρης;
ἡμεῖς μὲν οὖν ἐῷμεν οὐδὲ ψαύομεν.
σὺ δὲ σχολάζεις, ὥστε θαυμάζειν ἐμέ. 730
ἦκω δ' ἀποστελῶν σε· τὰκεῖθεν γὰρ εὖ
πεπραγμέν' ἐστίν, εἴ τι τῶνδ' ἐστὶν καλῶς.
ἔα· τίν' ἄνδρα τόνδ' ἐπὶ σκηναῖς ὀρῶ
θανόντα Τρώων; οὐ γὰρ Ἀργεῖον πέπλοι
δέμας περιπτύσσοντες ἀγγέλλουσί μοι. 735
- ΕΚ. δύστην', ἐμαυτὴν γὰρ λέγω λέγουσα σέ,

Ἑκάβη, τί δράσω; πότερα προσπέσω γόνυ
Ἀγαμέμνονος τοῦδ' ἢ φέρω σιγῇ κακά;

ΑΓ. τί μοι προσώπῳ νῶτον ἐγκλίνασα σὸν
δύρει, τὸ πραχθὲν δ' οὐ λέγεις; τίς ἔσθ' ὅδε; 740

ΕΚ. ἀλλ', εἴ με δούλην πολεμίαν θ' ἡγούμενος
γουνάτων ἀπώσαιοιτ', ἄλγος ἂν προσθείμεθ' ἄν.

ΑΓ. οὔτοι πέφυκα μάντις, ὥστε μὴ κλύων
ἐξιστορήσαι σῶν ὁδὸν βουλευμάτων.

ΕΚ. ἄρ' ἐκλογίζομαί γε πρὸς τὸ δυσμενὲς 745
μᾶλλον φρένας τοῦδ', ὄντος οὐχὶ δυσμενοῦς;

ΑΓ. εἴ τοί με βούλει τῶνδε μηδὲν εἰδέναι,
ἐς ταῦτόν ἤκεις· καὶ γὰρ οὐδ' ἐγὼ κλύειν.

ΕΚ. οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην τοῦδε τιμωρεῖν ἄτερ
τέκνοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖσι. τί στρέφω τάδε; 750

τολμᾶν ἀνάγκη, κἂν τύχῳ κἂν μὴ τύχῳ.
Ἀγάμεμνον, ἰκετεύω σε τῶνδε γουνάτων
καὶ σοῦ γενείου δεξιᾶς τ' εὐδαίμονος.

ΑΓ. τί χρῆμα μαστεύουσα; μὼν ἐλεύθερον
αἰῶνα θέσθαι; ῥάδιον γάρ ἐστὶ σοι. 755

ΕΚ. οὐ δῆτα· τοὺς κακοὺς δὲ τιμωρουμένη
αἰῶνα τὸν σύμπαντα δουλεύειν θέλω.

ΑΓ. καὶ δὴ τίν' ἡμᾶς εἰς ἐπάρκεσιν καλεῖς;

* * * * *

ΕΚ. οὐδέν τι τούτων ὦν σὺ δοξάζεις, ἄναξ.
ὀρᾶς νεκρὸν τόνδ', οὗ καταστάζω δάκρυ; 760

ΑΓ. ὀρῶ· τὸ μέντοι μέλλον οὐκ ἔχω μαθεῖν.

ΕΚ. τοῦτόν ποτ' ἔτεκον κᾶφερον ζώνης ὕπο.

ΑΓ. ἔστιν δὲ τίς σῶν οὗτος, ᾧ τλῆμον, τέκνων;

ΕΚ. οὐ τῶν θανόντων Πριαμιδῶν ὑπ' Ἰλίου.

ΑΓ. ἦ γάρ τιν' ἄλλον ἔτεκες ἢ κείνους, γύναι; 765

ΕΚ. ἀνόνητά γ', ὡς ἔοικε, τόνδ' ὃν εἰσορᾶς.

- ΑΓ. ποῦ δ' ὦν ἐτύγχαν', ἡνίκ' ὥλλυτο πτόλις;
ΕΚ. πατήρ νιν ἐξέπεμψεν ὀρρωδῶν θανεῖν.
ΑΓ. ποῖ τῶν τότ' ὄντων χωρίσας τέκνων μόνον;
ΕΚ. ἐς τήνδε χώραν, οὐπερ ἡύρέθη θανών. 770
ΑΓ. πρὸς ἄνδρ' ὃς ἄρχει τῆσδε Πολυμήστωρ χθονός;
ΕΚ. ἐνταῦθ' ἐπέμφθη πικροτάτου χρυσοῦ φύλαξ.
ΑΓ. θνήσκει δὲ πρὸς τοῦ καὶ τίνος πότμου τυχών;
ΕΚ. τίνος δ' ὑπ' ἄλλου; Θρήξ νιν ὤλεσε ξένος.
ΑΓ. ὦ τλήμον· ἦ που χρυσὸν ἡράσθη λαβεῖν; 775
ΕΚ. τοιαῦτ', ἐπειδὴ ξυμφορὰν ἔγνω Φρυγῶν.
ΑΓ. ἡῦρες δὲ ποῦ νιν, ἣ τίς ἤνεγκεν νεκρόν;
ΕΚ. ἦδ', ἐντυχοῦσα ποντίας ἀκτῆς ἔπι.
ΑΓ. τοῦτον ματεύουσ' ἦ πονοῦσ' ἄλλον πόνον;
ΕΚ. λούτρ' ὥχετ' οἴσουσ' ἐξ ἀλὸς Πολυξένη. 780
ΑΓ. κτανών νιν, ὡς ἔοικεν, ἐκβάλλει ξένος·
ΕΚ. θαλασσόπλαγκτόν γ', ὧδε διατεμὼν χρόα.
ΑΓ. ὦ σχετλία σὺ τῶν ἀμετρήτων πόνων.
ΕΚ. ὄλωλα, κοῦδέν λοιπόν, Ἀγάμεμνον, κακῶν.
ΑΓ. φεῦ φεῦ· τίς οὕτω δυστυχῆς ἔφυ γυνή; 785
ΕΚ. οὐκ ἔστιν, εἰ μὴ τὴν τύχην αὐτὴν λέγοις.
ἀλλ' ὥνπερ εἵνεκ' ἀμφὶ σὸν πίπτω γόνυ
ἄκουσον· εἰ μὲν ὅσιά σοι παθεῖν δοκῶ,
στέργοιμ' ἄν· εἰ δὲ τοῦμπαλιν, σύ μοι γενοῦ
τιμωρὸς ἀνδρὸς ἀνοσιωτάτου ξένου, 790
ὃς οὔτε τοὺς γῆς νέρθεν οὔτε τοὺς ἄνω
δείσας δέδρακεν ἔργον ἀνοσιώτατον·
κοινῆς τραπέζης πολλάκις τυχὼν ἐμοὶ
ξενίας τ' ἀριθμῶ πρῶτα τῶν ἐμῶν ξένων,
τυχὼν δ' ὅσων δεῖ καὶ λαβὼν προμηθίαν 795
ἔκτεινε, τύμβου δ', εἰ κτανεῖν ἐβούλετο,
οὐκ ἠξίωσεν, ἀλλ' ἀφῆκε πόντιον.

ἡμεῖς μὲν οὖν δοῦλοί τε κάσθενεῖς ἴσως·
 ἀλλ' οἱ θεοὶ σθένουσι χῶ κείνων κρατῶν
 νόμος· νόμῳ γὰρ τοὺς θεοὺς ἡγούμεθα 800
 καὶ ζῶμεν ἄδικα καὶ δίκαι' ὠρισμένοι·
 ὃς εἰς σ' ἀνελθὼν εἰ διαφθαρήσεται,
 καὶ μὴ δίκην δώσουσιν οἵτινες ξένους
 κτείνουσιν ἢ θεῶν ἱερὰ τολμῶσιν φέρειν,
 οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδὲν τῶν ἐν ἀνθρώποις ἴσον. 805
 ταῦτ' οὖν ἐν αἰσχυρῷ θέμενος αἰδέσθητί με·
 οἴκτιρον ἡμᾶς, ὥς γραφεύς τ' ἀποσταθεῖς
 ἰδοῦ με κἀνάθρησον οἷ' ἔχω κακά.
 τύραννος ἦ ποτ', ἀλλὰ νῦν δούλη σέθεν,
 εὖπαις ποτ' οὔσα, νῦν δὲ γραῦς ἅπαις θ' ἅμα, 810
 ἄπολις ἔρημος ἀθλιωτάτῃ βροτῶν.
 οἴμοι τάλαινα, ποῖ μ' ὑπεξάγεις πόδα;
 ἔοικα πράξειν οὐδέν· ὦ τάλαιν' ἐγώ.
 τί δῆτα θνητοὶ τᾶλλα μὲν μαθήματα
 μοχθοῦμεν ὥς χρὴ πάντα καὶ μαστεύομεν, 815
 πειθῶ δὲ τὴν τύραννον ἀνθρώποις μόνην
 οὐδέν τι μᾶλλον ἐς τέλος σπουδάζομεν
 μισθοὺς διδόντες μανθάνειν, ἵν' ἦν ποτὲ
 πείθειν ἅ τις βούλοιο τυγχάνειν θ' ἅμα;
 τί οὖν ἔτ' ἄν τις ἐλπίσαι πράξειν καλῶς; 820
 οἱ μὲν γὰρ ὄντες παῖδες οὐκέτ' εἰσὶ μοι,
 αὐτὴ δ' ἐπ' αἰσχυροῖς αἰχμάλωτος. οἴχομαι·
 καπνὸν δὲ πόλεως τόνδ' ὑπερθρώσκονθ' ὀρώ.
 καὶ μὴν ἴσως μὲν τοῦ λόγου κενὸν τόδε,
 Κύπριν προβάλλειν· ἀλλ' ὅμως εἰρήσεται· 825
 πρὸς σοῖσι πλευροῖς παῖς ἐμὴ κοιμίζεται
 ἢ φοιβάς, ἣν καλοῦσι Κασάνδραν Φρύγες.
 ποῦ τὰς φίλας δῆτ' εὐφρόνας δείξεις, ἀναξ,

ἡ τῶν ἐν εὐνῇ φιλτάτων ἀσπασμάτων
 χάριν τίν' ἔξει παῖς ἐμή, κείνης δ' ἐγώ; 830
 ἄκουε δὴ νυν· τὸν θανόντα τόνδ' ὀρᾷς; 833
 τοῦτον καλῶς δρῶν ὄντα κηδεστὴν σέθεν
 δράσεις. ἐνός μοι μῦθος ἐνδεῆς ἔτι. 835

εἴ μοι γένοιτο φθόγγος ἐν βραχίοσι
 καὶ χερσὶ καὶ κόμαισι καὶ ποδῶν βάσει
 ἢ Δαιδάλου τέχναισιν ἢ θεῶν τινος,
 ὥς πάνθ' ὁμαρτῇ σῶν ἔχοιτο γουνάτων
 κλαίοντ' ἐπισκῆπτοντα παντοίους λόγους. 840
 ὦ δέσποτ', ὦ μέγιστον Ἑλλησιν φάος,
 πιθοῦ, παράσχες χεῖρα τῇ πρεσβύτιδι
 τιμωρόν, εἰ καὶ μηδέν ἐστίν, ἀλλ' ὅμως.
 ἐσθλοῦ γὰρ ἀνδρὸς τῇ δίκη θ' ὑπηρετεῖν
 καὶ τοὺς κακοὺς δρᾶν πανταχοῦ κακῶς αἰεί. 845

ΧΟ. δεινόν γε, θνητοῖς ὥς ἅπαντα συμπίτνει,
 καὶ τῆς ἀνάγκης οἱ νόμοι διώρισαν,
 φίλους τιθέντες τοὺς γε πολεμιωτάτους
 ἐχθροὺς τε τοὺς πρὶν εὐμενεῖς ποιούμενοι.

ΑΓ. ἔγωγε καὶ σὸν παῖδα καὶ τύχας σέθεν, 850
 Ἐκάβη, δι' οἴκτου χεῖρά θ' ἱκεσίαν ἔχω
 καὶ βούλομαι θεῶν θ' εἶνεκ' ἀνόσιον ξένον
 καὶ τοῦ δικαίου τήνδε σοι δοῦναι δίκην,
 εἴ πως φανείη γ' ὥστε σοί τ' ἔχειν καλῶς,
 στρατῷ τε μὴ δόξαιμι Κασάνδρας χάριν 855
 Θρήκης ἀνακτι τόνδε βουλευῆσαι φόνον.
 ἔστιν γὰρ ἡ ταραγμὸς ἐμπέπτωκέ μοι·
 τὸν ἄνδρα τοῦτον φίλιον ἡγεῖται στρατός,
 τὸν κατθανόντα δ' ἐχθρόν· εἰ δ' ἐμοὶ φίλος
 ὃδ' ἐστί, χωρὶς τοῦτο κοῦ κοινὸν στρατῷ. 860
 πρὸς ταῦτα φρόντιζ'· ὥς θέλοντα μὲν μ' ἔχεις

σοὶ ξυμπονῆσαι καὶ ταχὺν προσαρκέσαι,
βραδὺν δ', Ἀχαιοῖς εἰ διαβληθήσομαι.

ΕΚ. φεῦ.

οὐκ ἔστι θνητῶν ὅστις ἔστ' ἐλεύθερος·
ἢ χρημάτων γὰρ δοῦλός ἐστιν ἢ τύχης, 865
ἢ πληθὸς αὐτὸν πόλεος ἢ νόμων γραφαὶ
εἴργουσι χρῆσθαι μὴ κατὰ γνώμην τρόποις.
ἐπεὶ δὲ ταρβεῖς τῷ τ' ὄχλῳ πλέον νέμεις·
ἐγὼ σε θήσω τοῦδ' ἐλεύθερον φόβου.
σύνισθι μὲν γάρ, ἣν τι βουλεύσω κακὸν 870
τῷ τόνδ' ἀποκτείναντι, συνδράσῃς δὲ μῆ.
ἣν δ' ἐξ Ἀχαιῶν θόρυβος ἢ ἴπικουρία
πάσχοντος ἀνδρὸς Θρηκὸς οἷα πείσεται
φανῇ τις, εἴργε μὴ δοκῶν ἐμὴν χάριν.
τὰ δ' ἄλλα θάρσει· πάντ' ἐγὼ θήσω καλῶς. 875

ΑΓ. πῶς οὖν; τί δράσεις; πότερα φάσγανον χερὶ
λαβοῦσα γραίᾳ φῶτα βάρβαρον κτενεῖς,
ἢ φαρμάκοισιν, ἢ ἴπικουρία τίνι;
τίς σοι ξυνέσται χεῖρ; πόθεν κτήσεται φίλους;

ΕΚ. στέγαι κεκεύθασ' αἶδε Τρῳάδων ὄχλον. 880

ΑΓ. τὰς αἰχμαλώτους εἶπας, Ἑλλήνων ἄγραν;

ΕΚ. ξὺν ταῖσδε τὸν ἐμὸν φονέα τιμωρήσομαι.

ΑΓ. καὶ πῶς γυναιξὶν ἀρσένων ἔσται κράτος;

ΕΚ. δεινὸν τὸ πλῆθος σὺν δόλῳ τε δύσμαχον.

ΑΓ. δεινόν· τὸ μέντοι θῆλυ μέμφομαι γένος. 885

ΕΚ. τί δ'; οὐ γυναικες εἶλον Αἰγύπτου τέκνα
καὶ Λῆμνον ἄρδην ἀρσένων ἐξώκισαν;
ἀλλ' ὥς γενέσθω· τόνδε μὲν μέθες λόγον,
πέμψον δέ μοι τήνδ' ἀσφαλῶς διὰ στρατοῦ
γυναικα. καὶ σὺ Θρηκὶ πλαθείσα ξένῳ 890
λέξον· καλεῖ σ' ἄνασσα δὴ ποτ' Ἰλίου

Ἐκάβη, σὸν οὐκ ἔλασσον ἢ κείνης χρέος,
καὶ παῖδας· ὥς δεῖ καὶ τέκν' εἰδέναι λόγους
τοὺς ἐξ ἐκείνης. τὸν δὲ τῆς νεοσφαγοῦς
Πολυξένης ἐπίσχεσ, Ἀγάμεμνον, τάφον, 895
ὥς τῶδ' ἀδελφῶ πλησίον μιᾷ φλογί,
δισσὴ μέριμνα μητρί, κρυφθῆτον χθονί.

ΑΓ. ἔσται τάδ' οὕτω· καὶ γὰρ εἰ μὲν ἦν στρατῶ
πλοῦς, οὐκ ἂν εἶχον τήνδε σοι δοῦναι χάριν·
νῦν δ', οὐ γὰρ ἴησ' οὐρίας πνοᾶς θεός, 900
μένειν ἀνάγκη πλοῦν ὀρῶντας ἥσυχον.
γένοιτο δ' εὖ πως· πᾶσι γὰρ κοινὸν τόδε
ιδίᾳ θ' ἐκάστω καὶ πόλει, τὸν μὲν κακὸν
κακὸν τι πάσχειν, τὸν δὲ χρηστὸν εὐτυχεῖν·

ΧΟ. σὺ μὲν, ὦ πατὴρ Ἰλιάς, στρ. α'.
τῶν ἀπορθήτων πόλις οὐκέτι λέξει· 906
τοῖον Ἑλλάνων νέφος ἀμφί σε κρύπτει
δορὶ δὴ δορὶ πέρσαν.
ἀπὸ δὲ στεφάναν κέκαρσαι 910
πύργων, κατὰ δ' αἰθάλου
κηλὶδ' οἰκτροτάταν κέχρωσαι·
τάλαιν', οὐκέτι σ' ἐμβατεύσω.

μεσονύκτιος ὠλλύμαν, ἀντ. α'.
ἦμος ἐκ δείπνων ὕπνος ἡδὺς ἐπ' ὅσσοις 915
σκίδνυται, μολπᾶν δ' ἄπο καὶ χοροποιὸν
θυσίαν καταπαύσας
πόσις ἐν θαλάμοις ἔκειτο,
ξυστὸν δ' ἐπὶ πασσάλῳ, 920
ναύταν οὐκέθ' ὀρῶν ὄμιλον
Τροίαν Ἰλιάδ' ἐμβεβῶτα·
ἐγὼ δὲ πλόκαμον ἀναδέτοις στρ. β'.
μίτραισιν ἐρρυθμιζόμεν

χρυσέων ἐνόπτρων 925
 λεύσσουσ' ἀτέρμονας εἰς αὐγὰς,
 ἐπιδέμνιος ὥς πέσοιμ' ἐς εὐνάν.
 ἀνὰ δὲ κέλαδος ἔμολε πόλιν·
 κέλευμα δ' ἦν κατ' ἄστν Τροίας τόδ'· ὦ
 παῖδες Ἑλλάνων· πότε δὴ πότε τὰν 930
 Ἰλιάδα σκοπιὰν
 πέρσαντες ἤξετ' οἴκους;
 λέχη δὲ φίλια μονόπεπλος ἀντ. β'.
 λιποῦσα, Δωρὶς ὥς κόρα,
 σεμνὰν προσίζουσ' 935
 οὐκ ἤνυσ' Ἄρτεμιν ἅ τλάμων·
 ἄγομαι δὲ θανόντ' ἰδοῦσ' ἀκοίταν
 τὸν ἐμὸν ἄλιον ἐπὶ πέλαγος,
 πόλιν τ' ἀποσκοποῦσ', ἐπεὶ νόστιμον
 ναῦς ἐκίνησεν πόδα καί μ' ἀπὸ γᾶς 940
 ὥρισεν Ἰλιάδος·
 τάλαιν' ἀπεῖπον ἄλγει,
 τὰν τοῖν Διοσκόροιν Ἑλέναν κάσιν
 Ἰδαϊὸν τε βούταν ἐπῳδ.
 αἰνόπαριν κατάρᾳ 945
 διδοῦσ', ἐπεὶ με γᾶς
 ἐκ πατρίδας ἀπώλεσεν
 ἐξώκισέν τ' οἴκων γάμος, οὐ γάμος,
 ἀλλ' ἀλάστορός τις οἰζύς· 950
 ἂν μήτε πέλαγος ἄλιον ἀπαγάγοι πάλιν,
 μήτε πατρῶον ἵκοιτ' ἐς οἶκον.

ΠΟΛΥΜΗΣΤΩΡ.

ὦ φίλτατ' ἀνδρῶν Πρίαμε, φιλτάτῃ δὲ σύ,
 Ἑκάβη, δακρύω σ' εἰσορῶν πόλιν τε σήν,

τὴν τ' ἀρτίως θανοῦσαν ἔκγονον σέθεν. 955
φεῦ·

οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδὲν πιστόν, οὔτ' εὐδοξία
οὔτ' αὖ καλῶς πράσσοντα μὴ πράξειν κακῶς.
φύρουσι δ' αὐτὰ θεοὶ πάλιν τε καὶ πρόσω
ταραγμὸν ἐντιθέντες, ὥς ἀγνωσίᾳ
σέβωμεν αὐτούς· ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν τί δεῖ 960
θρηνεῖν προκόπτουτ' οὐδὲν ἐς πρόσθεν κακῶν;
σὺ δ', εἴ τι μέμφει τῆς ἐμῆς ἀπουσίας,
σχές· τυγχάνω γὰρ ἐν μέσοις Θρήκης ὄροις
ἀπών, ὅτ' ἦλθες δεῦρ'· ἐπεὶ δ' ἀφικόμην,
ἤδη πόδ' ἔξω δωμαίων αἵρουτί μοι 965
ἐς ταῦτόν ἥδε συμπίτνει δμῶις σέθεν,
λέγουσα μύθους, ὧν κλύων ἀφικόμην.

ΕΚ. αἰσχύνομαί σε προσβλέπειν ἐναντίον,
Πολυμήστορ, ἐν τοιοῖσδε κειμένη κακοῖς.
ὅτῳ γὰρ ὤφθην εὐτυχοῦσ', αἰδῶς μ' ἔχει 970
ἐν τῷδε πότμῳ τυγχάνουσ' ἵν' εἰμὶ νῦν
κοῦκ ἂν δύναίμην προσβλέπειν ὀρθαῖς κόραις.
ἀλλ' αὐτὸ μὴ δύσνοιαν ἡγήσῃ σέθεν,
Πολυμήστορ· ἄλλως δ' αἵτιόν τι καὶ νόμος,
γυναῖκας ἀνδρῶν μὴ βλέπειν ἐναντίον. 975

ΠΟΛΥΜ. καὶ θαῦμά γ' οὐδέν. ἀλλὰ τίς χρεία σ' ἐμοῦ;
τί χρῆμ' ἐπέμψω τὸν ἐμὸν ἐκ δόμων πόδα;

ΕΚ. ἴδιον ἐμαυτῆς δὴ τι πρὸς σέ βούλομαι
καὶ παῖδας εἰπεῖν σοὺς· ὁπάονας δέ μοι
χωρὶς κέλευσον τῶνδ' ἀποσθῆναι δόμων. 980

ΠΟΛΥΜ. χωρεῖτ'· ἐν ἀσφαλεῖ γὰρ ἦδ' ἐρημία.
φίλη μὲν εἰ σύ, προσφιλὲς δέ μοι τόδε
στράτευμ' Ἀχαιῶν. ἀλλὰ σημαίνειν σε χρῆν
τί χρῆ τὸν εὖ πράσσοντα μὴ πράσσουσιν εὖ

φίλοις ἐπαρκεῖν· ὥς ἔτοιμός εἰμ' ἐγώ. 985

ΕΚ. πρῶτον μὲν εἶπὲ παῖδ' ὃν ἐξ ἐμῆς χερὸς
Πολύδωρον ἔκ τε πατρὸς ἐν δόμοις ἔχεις,
εἰ ζῇ· τὰ δ' ἄλλα δεύτερόν σ' ἐρήσομαι.

ΠΟΛΤΜ. μάλιστα· τοῦκείνου μὲν εὐτυχεῖς μέρος.

ΕΚ. ὦ φίλταθ', ὥς εὖ καξίως σέθεν λέγεις. 990

ΠΟΛΤΜ. τί δῆτα βούλει δεύτερον μαθεῖν ἐμοῦ;

ΕΚ. εἰ τῆς τεκούσης τῆσδε μέμνηταί τί μου.

ΠΟΛΤΜ. καὶ δευρό γ' ὥς σὲ κρύφιος ἐζήτει μολεῖν.

ΕΚ. χρυσὸς δὲ σῶς ὃν ἦλθεν ἐκ Τροίας ἔχων; 994

ΠΟΛΤΜ. σῶς, ἐν δόμοις γε τοῖς ἐμοῖς φρουρούμενος.

ΕΚ. σῶσόν νυν αὐτὸν μηδ' ἔρα τῶν πλησίον.

ΠΟΛΤΜ. ἦκιστ'· ὀναίμην τοῦ παρόντος, ὦ γύναι.

ΕΚ. οἶσθ' οὖν ἂ λέξαι σοί τε καὶ παισὶν θέλω;

ΠΟΛΤΜ. οὐκ οἶδα· τῷ σῷ τοῦτο σημανεῖς λόγῳ.

ΕΚ. ἔστ', ὦ φιληθεῖς ὥς σὺ νῦν ἐμοὶ φιλεῖ, 1000

ΠΟΛΤΜ. τί χρῆμ' ὃ καμὲ καὶ τέκν' εἰδέναί χρεών;

ΕΚ. χρυσοῦ παλαιαὶ Πριαμιδῶν κατώρυχες.

ΠΟΛΤΜ. ταῦτ' ἔσθ' ἂ βούλει παιδὶ σημῆναι σέθεν;

ΕΚ. μάλιστα, διὰ σοῦ γ'· εἰ γὰρ εὖσεβῆς ἀνὴρ.

ΠΟΛΤΜ. τί δῆτα τέκνων τῶνδε δεῖ παρουσίας; 1005

ΕΚ. ἄμεινον, ἣν σὺ κατθάνης, τούσδ' εἰδέναί.

ΠΟΛΤΜ. καλῶς ἔλεξας· τῇδε καὶ σοφώτερον.

ΕΚ. οἶσθ' οὖν Ἀθάνας Ἰλίας ἵνα στέγαι;

ΠΟΛΤΜ. ἐνταῦθ' ὁ χρυσὸς ἐστι; σημεῖον δὲ τί;

ΕΚ. μέλαινα πέτρα γῆς ὑπερτέλλουσ' ἄνω. 1010

ΠΟΛΤΜ. ἔτ' οὖν τι βούλει τῶν ἐκεῖ φράζειν ἐμοί;

ΕΚ. σῶσαί σε χρήμαθ' οἷς συνεξήλθον θέλω.

ΠΟΛΤΜ. ποῦ δῆτα; πέπλων ἐντός, ἢ κρύψας' ἔχεις;

ΕΚ. σκύλων ἐν ὄχλῳ ταῖσδε σῴζεται στέγαις. 1014

ΠΟΛΤΜ. ποῦ δ'; αἶδ' Ἀχαιῶν ναύλοχοι περιπτυχαί.

ΕΚ. *ιδίᾳ γυναικῶν αἰχμαλωτίδων στέγαι.*

ΠΟΛΤΜ. *τᾶνδον δὲ πιστὰ κάρσένων ἐρημία;*

ΕΚ. *οὔδεις Ἀχαιῶν ἔνδον, ἀλλ' ἡμεῖς μόναι.
ἀλλ' ἔρπ' ἐς οἴκους· καὶ γὰρ Ἀργεῖοι νεῶν
λῦσαι ποθοῦσιν οἴκαδ' ἐκ Τροίας πόδα· 1020
ὥς πάντα πράξας ὧν σε δεῖ στείχης πάλιν
ξὺν παισὶν οὔπερ τὸν ἐμὸν ᾤκισας γόνον.*

ΧΟ. *οὔπω δέδωκας, ἀλλ' ἴσως δώσεις δίκην·
ἀλίμενόν τις ὥς εἰς ἄντλον πεσὼν 1025
λέχριος ἐκπεσεῖ φίλας καρδίας,
ἀμέρσας βίον. τὸ γὰρ ὑπέγγυον
δίκᾳ καὶ θεοῖσιν οὐ συμπίτνει, 1030
ὀλέθριον ὀλέθριον κακόν.
ψεύσει σ' ὁδοῦ τῆσδ' ἐλπίς ἢ σ' ἐπήγαγεν
θανάσιμον πρὸς Ἄϊδαν, ὦ τάλας·
ἀπολέμφω δὲ χειρὶ λείψεις βίον. 1034*

ΠΟΛΤΜ. *ᾧμοι, τυφλοῦμαι φέγγος ὀμμάτων τάλας.*

ΧΟ. *ἡκούσατ' ἀνδρὸς Θρηκὸς οἰμωγὴν, φίλαι;*

ΠΟΛΤΜ. *ᾧμοι μάλ' αὖθις, τέκνα, δυστήνου σφαγῆς.*

ΧΟ. *φίλαι, πέπρακται καὶν' ἔσω δόμων κακά.*

ΠΟΛΤΜ. *ἀλλ' οὔτι μὴ φύγητε λαιψηρῷ ποδί.
βάλλων γὰρ οἴκων τῶνδ' ἀναρρήξω μυχοῦς. 1040
ιδού, βαρείας χειρὸς ὀρμᾶται βέλος.*

ΧΟ. *βούλεσθ' ἐπεσπέσωμεν; ὥς ἀκμὴ καλεῖ
Ἑκάβη παρῆναι Τρῳάσιν τε συμμάχους.*

ΕΚ. *ἄρασσε, φείδου μηδέν, ἐκβάλλων πύλας·
οὐ γάρ ποτ' ὄμμα λαμπρὸν ἐνθήσεις κόραις, 1045
οὐ παῖδας ὄψει ζῶντας οὓς ἔκτειν' ἐγώ.*

ΧΟ. *ἦ γὰρ καθεῖλες Θρηῆκα καὶ κρατεῖς ξένου,
δέσποινα, καὶ δέδρακας οἷάπερ λέγεις;*

ΕΚ. *ὄψει νιν αὐτίκ' ὄντα δωμάτων πάρος*

τυφλὸν τυφλῷ στείχοντα παραφόρῳ ποδί, 1050
 παίδων τε δισσων σώμαθ', οὓς ἔκτειν' ἐγὼ
 σὺν ταῖς ἀρίσταις Τρωάσιν· δίκην δέ μοι
 δέδωκε· χωρεῖ δ', ὡς ὀράς, ὅδ' ἐκ δόμων.
 ἄλλ' ἐκποδὼν ἄπειμι κάποστήσομαι
 θυμῷ ῥέοντι Θρηκὶ δυσμαχωτάτῳ. 1055

ΠΟΛΤΜ. ὦμοι ἐγώ, πᾶ βῶ,

πᾶ στῶ, πᾶ κέλσω;
 τετράποδος βάσιν θηρὸς ὀρεστέρου
 τιθέμενος ἐπὶ χεῖρα κατ' ἵχνος ποίαν
 ἦ ταύταν ἦ τάνδ' 1060
 ἐξαλλάξω, τὰς
 ἀνδροφόνους μάρψαι
 χρήζων Ἰλιάδας, αἳ με διώλεσαν;
 τάλαιναι κόραι τάλαιναι Φρυγῶν,
 ὦ κατάραιοι, 1065
 ποῖ καί με φυγᾶ πτώσσουσι μυχῶν;
 εἴθε μοι ὀμμάτων αἱματόεν βλέφαρον
 ἀκέσσαιο τυφλὸν ἀκέσσαι', "Αλιε,
 φέγγος ἀπαλλάξας.
 ᾶ ᾶ.

σίγα· κρυπτὰν βάσιν αἰσθάνομαι 1070
 τάνδε γυναικῶν. πᾶ πόδ' ἐπάξας
 σαρκῶν ὀστέων τ' ἐμπλησθῶ,
 θοίναν ἀγρίων τιθέμενος θηρῶν,
 ἀρνύμενος λῶβαν
 λύμας ἀντίποιν' ἐμᾶς; ὦ τάλας. 1075
 ποῖ πᾶ φέρομαι τέκν' ἔρημα λιπῶν
 βάκχαις "Αιδου διαμοιρᾶσαι,
 σφακτὰν κυσὶ τε φονίαν δαῖτ' ἀνήμερον
 οὐρείαν τ' ἐκβολάν;

πᾶ στῶ, πᾶ βῶ, πᾶ κάμψω, 1080
 ναῦς ὅπως ποντίοις πείσμασι, λινόκροκον
 φᾶρος στέλλων, ἐπὶ τάνδε συθεῖς
 τέκνων ἐμῶν φύλαξ
 ὀλέθριον κοίταν;

ΧΟ. ὦ τλήμον, ὥς σοι δύσφορ' εἵργασται κακά· 1085
 δράσαντι δ' αἰσχρὰ δεινὰ τὰπιτίμια. 1086

ΠΟΛΥΜ. αἰαῖ, ἰὼ Θρήκης 1088

λογχοφόρον ἔνοπλον εὐίππον Ἄ-
 ρει κάτοχον γένος. 1090

ἰὼ Ἀχαιοί, ἰὼ Ἀτρεΐδαι.

βοὰν βοὰν αὐτῶ, βοάν·

ὦ ἴτε, μόλετε πρὸς θεῶν.

κλύει τις, ἥ οὐδεὶς ἀρκέσει; τί μέλλετε;

γυναῖκες ὤλεσάν με, 1095

γυναῖκες αἰχμαλώτιδες.

δεινὰ δεινὰ πεπόνθαμεν·

ὦμοι ἐμᾶς λώβας.

ποῖ τράπωμαι, ποῖ πορευθῶ;

ἀμπτάμενος οὐράνιον 1100

ὑψιπέτης ἐς μέλαθρον, Ὀρίων

ἥ Σείριος ἔνθα πυρὸς φλογέας, ἀφίη-

σιν ὅσων αὐγὰς, ἥ τὸν ἐς Αἶδα

μελανοχρῶτα πορθμὸν ἄξω τάλας; 1105

ΧΟ. ξυγγνώσθ', ὅταν τις κρείσσον' ἢ φέρειν κακὰ
 πάθῃ, ταλαίνης ἐξαπαλλάξαι ζόης.

ΑΓ. κραυγῆς ἀκούσας ἦλθον· οὐ γὰρ ἥσυχος
 πέτρας ὀρείας παῖς λέλακ' ἀνὰ στρατὸν 1110
 Ἦχὼ διδοῦσα θόρυβον. εἰ δὲ μὴ Φρυγῶν
 πύργους πεσόντας ἦσμεν Ἑλλήνων δορί,
 φόβον παρέσχευ οὐ μέσως ὅδε κτύπος.

ΠΟΛΤΜ. ὦ φίλτατ', ἡσθόμην γάρ, Ἀγάμεμνον, σέθεν
φωνῆς ἀκούσας εἰσορᾶς ἃ πάσχομεν; 1115

ΑΓ. ἔα.

Πολυμήστορ ὦ δύστηνε, τίς σ' ἀπώλεσεν;
τίς ὄμμ' ἔθηκε τυφλὸν αἰμάξας κόρας,
παῖδάς τε τούσδ' ἔκτεινεν; ἡ μέγαν χόλου
σοὶ καὶ τέκνοισιν εἶχεν ὅστις ἦν ἄρα.

ΠΟΛΤΜ. Ἐκάβη με σὺν γυναιξὶν αἰχμαλωτίσιν 1120
ἀπώλεσ', οὐκ ἀπώλεσ', ἀλλὰ μεϊζόνως.

ΑΓ. τί φῆς; σὺ τοῦργον εἶργασαι τόδ', ὥς λέγει;
σὺ τόλμαν, Ἐκάβη, τήνδ' ἔτλης ἀμήχανον;

ΠΟΛΤΜ. ὦμοι, τί λέξεις; ἡ γὰρ ἐγγύς ἐστί που;
σήμηνον, εἰπὲ ποῦ 'σθ', ἵν' ἀρπάσας χεροῖν 1125
διασπάσωμαι καὶ καθαιμάξω χροά.

ΑΓ. οὗτος, τί πάσχεις;

ΠΟΛΤΜ. πρὸς θεῶν σε λίσσομαι,
μέθες μ' ἐφείναι τῇδε μαργώσαν χέρα.

ΑΓ. ἴσχ'· ἐκβαλὼν δὲ καρδίας τὸ βάρβαρον
λέγ', ὥς ἀκούσας σοῦ τε τῆσδέ τ' ἐν μέρει 1130
κρίνω δικαίως ἀνθ' ὅτου πάσχεις τάδε.

ΠΟΛΤΜ. λέγοιμ' ἄν. ἦν τις Πριαμιδῶν νεώτατος,
Πολύδωρος, Ἐκάβης παῖς, ὃν ἐκ Τροίας ἐμοὶ
πατὴρ δίδωσι Πρίαμος ἐν δόμοις τρέφειν,
ὑποπτος ὦν δὴ Τρωικῆς ἀλώσεως. 1135

τοῦτον κατέκτειν'· ἀνθ' ὅτου δ' ἔκτεινά νιν,
ἄκουσον, ὥς εὖ καὶ σοφῇ προμηθία.

ἔδεισα μὴ σοὶ πολέμιος λειφθεὶς ὁ παῖς

Τροίαν ἀθροίσῃ καὶ ξυνοικίσῃ πάλιν,
γνόντες δ' Ἀχαιοὶ ζῶντα Πριαμιδῶν τινα 1140

Φρυγῶν ἐς αἶαν αὐθις ἄρειαν στόλον
κᾶπειτα Θρήκης πεδία τρίβοιεν τάδε

λεηλατοῦντες, γείτοσιν δ' εἶη κακὸν
 Τρώων, ἐν ᾧπερ νῦν, ἄναξ, ἐκάμνομεν.
 Ἐκάβη δὲ παιδὸς γνοῦσα θανάσιμον μόρον 1145
 λόγῳ με τοιῷδ' ἤγαγ', ὡς κεκρυμμένας
 θήκας φράσουσα Πριαμιδῶν ἐν Ἰλίῳ
 χρυσοῦ· μόνον δὲ σὺν τέκνοισί μ' εἰσάγει
 δόμους, ἵν' ἄλλος μὴ τις εἰδείῃ τάδε.
 ἴζω δὲ κλίνης ἐν μέσῳ κάμψας γόνυ· 1150
 πολλαὶ δὲ χειρὸς αἱ μὲν ἐξ ἀριστερᾶς,
 αἱ δ' ἔνθεν, ὡς δὴ παρὰ φίλῳ, Τρώων κόραι
 θάκουσ' ἔχουσαι, κερκίδ' Ἠδωνῆς χερὸς
 ἥνουν, ὑπ' αὐγὰς τούσδε λεύσσουσαι πέπλους·
 ἄλλαι δὲ κάμακα Θρηκίαν θεώμεναι 1155
 γυμνὸν μ' ἔθηκαν διπτύχου στολίσματος.
 ὅσαι δὲ τοκάδες ἦσαν, ἐκπαγλούμεναι
 τέκν' ἐν χεροῖν ἔπαλλον, ὡς πρόσω πατρὸς
 γένοιντο, διαδοχαῖς ἀμείβουσαι χεροῖν.
 κατ' ἐκ γαληνῶν, πῶς δοκεῖς; προσφθεγμάτων 1160
 εὐθὺς λαβοῦσαι φάσγαν' ἐκ πέπλων ποθὲν
 κεντοῦσι παῖδας, αἱ δὲ πολεμίων δίκην
 ξυναρπάσασαι τὰς ἐμὰς εἶχον χέρας
 καὶ κῶλα· παισὶ δ' ἀρκέσαι χρήζων ἐμοῖς,
 εἰ μὲν πρόσωπον ἐξανισταίην ἐμόν· 1165
 κόμης κατεῖχον, εἰ δὲ κινοίην χέρας,
 πλήθει γυναικῶν οὐδὲν ἥνουν τάλας.
 τὸ λοίσθιον δέ, πῆμα πῆματος πλέον,
 ἐξειργάσαντο δεῖν· ἐμῶν γὰρ ὀμμάτων,
 πόρπας λαβοῦσαι, τὰς ταλαιπώρους κόρας 1170
 κεντοῦσιν αἰμάσσουσιν· εἴτ' ἀνὰ στέγας
 φυγάδες ἔβησαν· ἐκ δὲ πηδηῖσας ἐγὼ
 θῆρ ὡς διώκω τὰς μραιφόνους κύνας,

ἅπαντ' ἐρευνῶν τοῖχον ὡς κυνηγέτης
 βάλλων ἀράσσω. τοιάδε σπεύδων χάριν 1175
 πέπονθα τὴν σὴν πολέμιόν τε σὸν κτανών,
 Ἀγάμεμνον. ὥς δὲ μὴ μακροὺς τείνω λόγους,
 εἴ τις γυναιῆκας τῶν πρὶν εἶρηκεν κακῶς,
 ἢ νῦν λέγων ἔστιν τις ἢ μέλλει λέγειν,
 ἅπαντα ταῦτα συντεμὼν ἐγὼ φράσω· 1180
 γένος γὰρ οὔτε πόντος οὔτε γῆ τρέφει
 τοιόνδ'· ὁ δ' αἰὲν ξυντυχὼν ἐπίσταται.

ΧΟ. μῆδὲν θρασύνου, μῆδὲ τοῖς σαντοῦ κακοῖς
 τὸ θῆλυ συνθεῖς ὥδε πᾶν μέμψῃ γένος·
 πολλαὶ γὰρ ἐσμέν· αἱ μὲν εἰς' ἐπίφθονοι, 1185
 αἱ δ' εἰς ἀριθμὸν οὐ κακῶν πεφύκαμεν.

ΕΚ. Ἀγάμεμνον, ἀνθρώποισιν οὐκ ἐχρῆν ποτὲ
 τῶν πραγμάτων τὴν γλῶσσαν ἰσχύειν πλέον.
 ἀλλ', εἴτε χρήστ' ἔδρασε, χρήστ' ἔδει λέγειν,
 εἴτ' αὖ πονηρά, τοὺς λόγους εἶναι σαθροὺς 1190
 καὶ μὴ δύνασθαι τᾶδ' εὖ λέγειν ποτέ.
 σοφοὶ μὲν οὖν εἰς' οἱ τὰδ' ἠκριβωκότες,
 ἀλλ' οὐ δύνανται διὰ τέλους εἶναι σοφοί,
 κακῶς δ' ἀπώλονται· οὔτις ἐξήλυξέ πω.
 καί μοι τὸ μὲν σὸν ὥδε φροιμίους ἔχει· 1195
 πρὸς τόνδε δ' εἰμι καὶ λόγοις ἀμείψομαι,
 ὃς φῆς Ἀχαιῶν πόνον ἀπαλλάσσω διπλοῦν
 Ἀγαμέμνονός θ' ἕκατι παῖδ' ἐμὸν κτανεῖν.
 ἀλλ', ὦ κάκιστε, πρῶτον οὐ ποτ' ἂν φίλον
 τὸ βάρβαρον γένοιτ' ἂν Ἑλλησιν γένος 1200
 οὔδ' ἂν δύναιτο. τίνα δὲ καὶ σπεύδων χάριν
 πρόθυμος ἦσθα; πότερα κηδεύσων τινὰ
 ἢ συγγενῆς ὦν, ἢ τίν' αἰτίαν ἔχων;
 ἢ σῆς ἔμελλον γῆς τεμεῖν βλαστήματα

πλεύσαντες αὔθις ; τίνα δοκεῖς πείσειν τάδε ;
 ὁ χρυσός, εἰ βούλοιο τάληθῇ λέγειν, 1206
 ἔκτεινε τὸν ἐμὸν παῖδα καὶ κέρδη τὰ σά.
 ἐπεὶ δίδαξον τοῦτο· πῶς, ὅτ' ἠγνύχει
 Τροία, πέριξ δὲ πύργος εἶχ' ἔτι πτόλιν,
 ἔζη τε Πρίαμος Ἑκτορός τ' ἦνθαι δόρυ, 1210
 τί δ' οὐ τότε, εἶπερ τῷδ' ἐβουλήθης χάριν
 θέσθαι, τρέφων τὸν παῖδα κὰν δόμοις ἔχων
 ἔκτεινας ἢ ζῶντ' ἦλθες Ἀργείοις ἄγων ;
 ἀλλ' ἠνίχ' ἡμεῖς οὐκέτ' ἐσμέν ἐν φάει,
 καπνῷ δ' ἐσήμην' ἄστυ πολεμίων ὕπο, 1215
 ξένον κατέκτας σὴν μολόντ' ἐφ' ἐστίαν.
 πρὸς τοῖσδέ νυν ἄκουσον, ὥς φανῆς κακός.
 χρῆν σ', εἶπερ ἦσθα τοῖς Ἀχαιοῖσιν φίλος,
 τὸν χρυσὸν δν φῆς οὐ σὸν ἀλλὰ τοῦδ' ἔχειν
 δοῦναι φέροντα πενομένοις τε καὶ χρόνον 1220
 πολὺν πατρώας γῆς ἀπεξενωμένοις·
 σὺ δ' οὐδὲ νῦν πω σῆς ἀπαλλάξαι χερὸς
 τολμᾷς, ἔχων δὲ καρτερεῖς ἔτ' ἐν δόμοις.
 καὶ μὴν τρέφων μὲν ὥς σε παῖδα χρῆν τρέφειν
 σώσας τε τὸν ἐμόν, εἵχες ἂν καλὸν κλέος· 1225
 ἐν τοῖς κακοῖς γὰρ ἀγαθοὶ σαφέστατοι
 φίλοι· τὰ χρηστὰ δ' αὖθ' ἕκαστ' ἔχει φίλους.
 εἰ δ' ἐσπάνιζες χρημάτων, ὃ δ' ἠγνύχει,
 θησαυρὸς ἂν σοι παῖς ὑπῆρχ' οὐμὸς μέγας·
 νῦν δ' οὔτ' ἐκείνον ἄνδρ' ἔχεις σαυτῷ φίλον, 1230
 χρυσοῦ τ' ὄνησις οἴχεται παῖδές τε σοί,
 αὐτός τε πράσσεις ὧδε. σοὶ δ' ἐγὼ λέγω,
 Ἀγάμεμνον, εἰ τῷδ' ἀρκέσεις, κακὸς φανεῖ·
 οὔτ' εὐσεβῇ γὰρ οὔτε πιστὸν οἷς ἐχρῆν,
 οὐχ ὅσιον, οὐ δίκαιον εὖ δράσεις ξένον· 1235

αὐτὸν δὲ χαίρειν τοῖς κακοῖς σε φήσομεν
 τοιοῦτον ὄντα· δεσπότης δ' οὐ λοιδορῶ.

ΧΟ. φεῦ φεῦ· βροτοῖσιν ὥς τὰ χρηστὰ πράγματα
 χρηστῶν ἀφορμὰς ἐνδίδωσ' ἀεὶ λόγων.

ΑΓ. ἀχθεινὰ μὲν μοι τὰλλότριά κρίνειν κακά, 1240
 ὅμως δ' ἀνάγκη· καὶ γὰρ αἰσχύνην φέρει,
 πρᾶγμ' ἐς χέρας λαβόντ' ἀπώσασθαι τόδε.
 ἐμοὶ δ', ἴν' εἰδῆς, οὔτ' ἐμὴν δοκεῖς χάριν
 οὔτ' οὖν Ἀχαιῶν ἄνδρ' ἀποκτείνειν ξένον,
 ἀλλ' ὥς ἔχῃς τὸν χρυσὸν ἐν δόμοισι σοῖς. 1245
 λέγεις δὲ σαυτῷ πρόσφορ' ἐν κακοῖσιν ὦν.
 τάχ' οὖν παρ' ὑμῖν ῥάδιον ξενοκτονεῖν·
 ἡμῖν δέ γ' αἰσχροὺς τοῖσιν Ἑλλήσιν τόδε.
 πῶς οὖν σε κρίνας μὴ ἀδικεῖν φύγω ψόγον;
 οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην· ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ τὰ μὴ καλὰ 1250
 πράσσειν ἐτόλμας, τλήθι καὶ τὰ μὴ φίλα.

ΠΟΛΥΜ. οἴμοι, γυναικός, ὥς ἔοιχ', ἡσώμενος
 δούλης ὑφέξω τοῖς κακίοσιν δίκην.

ΕΚ. οὐκ οὖν δικαίως, εἴπερ εἰργάσω κακά; 1254

ΠΟΛΥΜ. οἴμοι τέκνων τῶνδ' ὁμμάτων τ' ἐμῶν, τάλας.

ΕΚ. ἀλγεῖς; τί δὴ ἔμέ; παιδὸς οὐκ ἀλγεῖν δοκεῖς;

ΠΟΛΥΜ. χαίρεις ὑβρίζουσ' εἰς ἔμ', ὦ πανοῦργε σύ;

ΕΚ. οὐ γάρ με χαίρειν χρή σε τιμωρουμένην;

ΠΟΛΥΜ. ἀλλ' οὐ τάχ', ἥνίκ' ἂν σε ποντία νοτῖς

ΕΚ. μῶν ναυστολήσῃ γῆς ὄρους Ἑλληνίδος; 1260

ΠΟΛΥΜ. κρύψῃ μὲν οὖν πεσοῦσαν ἐκ καρχησιῶν.

ΕΚ. πρὸς τοῦ βιαίων τυγχάνουσιν ἀλμάτων;

ΠΟΛΥΜ. αὐτὴ πρὸς ἴστον ναὸς ἀμβήσει ποδί.

ΕΚ. ὑποπτέροις νώτοισιν ἢ ποίῳ τρόπῳ;

ΠΟΛΥΜ. κύων γενήσῃ πύρσ' ἔχουσα δέργματα. 1265

ΕΚ. πῶς δ' οἶσθα μορφῆς τῆς ἐμῆς μετάστασιν;

ΠΟΛΤΜ. ὁ Θρηξὶ μάντις εἶπε Διόνυσος τάδε.

ΕΚ. σοὶ δ' οὐκ ἔχρησεν οὐδὲν ὦν ἔχεις κακῶν;

ΠΟΛΤΜ. οὐ γάρ ποτ' ἂν σύ μ' εἶλες ὦδε σὺν δόλῳ.

ΕΚ. θανούσα δ' ἢ ζῶσ' ἐνθάδ' ἐκπλήσω βίον; 1270

ΠΟΛΤΜ. θανούσα· τύμβῳ δ' ὄνομα σῶ κεκλήσεται

ΕΚ. μορφῆς ἐπφδόν, ἢ τί, τῆς ἐμῆς ἐρεῖς;

ΠΟΛΤΜ. κυνὸς ταλαίνης σῆμα, ναυτίλοις τέκμαρ.

ΕΚ. οὐδὲν μέλει μοι σοῦ γέ μοι δόντος δίκην.

ΠΟΛΤΜ. καὶ σὴν γ' ἀνάγκη παῖδα Κασάνδραν θανεῖν.

ΕΚ. ἀπέπτυσ'· αὐτῷ ταῦτά σοι δίδωμ' ἔχειν. 1276

ΠΟΛΤΜ. κτενεῖ νιν ἢ τοῦδ' ἄλοχος, οἰκουρὸς πικρά.

ΕΚ. μήπω μανεῖη Τυνδαρίς τοσόνδε παῖς.

ΠΟΛΤΜ. καὐτόν γε τοῦτον, πέλεκυν ἐξάρας' ἄνω.

ΑΓ. οὔτος σύ, μαίνει καὶ κακῶν ἐράς τυχεῖν; 1280

ΠΟΛΤΜ. κτεῖν', ὡς ἐν Ἀργεὶ φόνια λουτρά σ' ἀναμένει.

ΑΓ. οὐχ ἔλξετ' αὐτόν, δμῶες, ἐκποδῶν βία;

ΠΟΛΤΜ. ἀλγεῖς ἀκούων; ΑΓ. οὐκ ἐφέξετε στόμα;

ΠΟΛΤΜ. ἐγκλήετ'· εἴρηται γάρ.

ΑΓ. οὐχ ὅσον τάχος

νήσων ἐρήμων αὐτόν ἐκβαλεῖτέ ποι, 1285

ἐπεῖπερ οὕτω καὶ λίαν θραυστομεῖ;

Ἐκάβη, σὺ δ', ὦ τάλαινα, διπτύχους νεκροὺς

στείχουσα θάπτε· δεσποτῶν δ' ὑμᾶς χρεὼν

σκηναῖς πελάζειν, Τρωάδες· καὶ γὰρ πνοὰς

πρὸς οἶκον ἤδη τάσδε πομπίμους ὀρώ. 1290

εὖ δ' ἐς πάτραν πλεύσαιμεν, εὖ δὲ τὰν δόμοις

ἔχοντ' ἴδοιμεν τῶνδ' ἀφειμένοι πόνων.

ΧΟ. ἴτε πρὸς λιμένας σκηνάς τε, φίλαι,

τῶν δεσποσύνων πειρασόμεναι

μόχθων· στερρὰ γὰρ ἀνάγκη.

NOTES.

1. **σκότου πύλας** for the more usual **Ἄιδου πύλας**. Hom. Il. ix. 312, Aesch. Ag. 1291, Eur. Hipp. 56.

2. **Ἄιδης... ᾤκισται**, 'where Hades' abode has been fixed.' **Ἄιδης** here is the god (as always in Homer: cf. Leaf on Il. i. 3), not his realm. The use of the word *οἰκίζω* implies that he is regarded as a settler in a new (and undesirable, *χωρὶς θεῶν*) land.

3. **Κισσέως**. So Virgil Aen. vii. 320 calls her 'Cisseis,' though Homer Il. xvi. 718 says she was daughter of Dymas.

6. **ὑπεξέπεμψε**, 'sent me *secretly* (*ὑπ-*) out' of the country.

8. The Thracian Chersonese (so called to distinguish it from other *χερσόνησοι*, 'peninsulas,' e.g. the Tauric, mod. Crimea) was early colonised by the Greeks. Herodotus vi. 34 sq. tells how the family of the 'tyrant of the Chersonese' first came there in the days of Peisistratus; probably several other Athenian families had valuable estates there too.

9. **σπείρει**. Corn and wine were the chief products of Thrace: probably the accounts of the severity of the climate were exaggerated. Corn was especially exported from the Chersonese, and was of good quality, Plin. xviii. 12. Homer Il. xx. 485 calls Thrace *ἐριβῶλαξ*.

φλιππον. The Thracians were at all times famous for their horses (Il. xiv. 227): a white breed is specially mentioned, *λευκότεροι χιόνος*, *θείλειν δ' ἀνέμοισιν ὁμοῖοι*, Il. x. 437.

δορὶ implies unconstitutional rule by force.

13. **ὄ=δι' δ**. So *ταῦτα*, Andr. 212 *ταῦτά τοί σ' ἔχθει πόσις*: Ar. Nub. 320 *ταῦτ' ἄρ' ἀκούσας αὐτῶν τὸ φθέγμ' ἢ ψυχὴ μου πεπότηται*: cf. Soph. Phil. 142 *τό μοι ἐννεπε*, 'tell me therefore.' Hom. Il. iii. 176.

14. **ὄπλα** defensive, *ἐγχος* offensive.

16. **ὄρθ' ἔκειθ' ὀρίσματα**. This probably refers to the boundary stones (Il. xxi. 405 *τόν ῥ' ἄνδρες πρότεροι θέσαν ἔμμεναι οὖρον ἀρούρης*) which would be thrown down on the conquest of the country.

20. 'beneath his nurturing like some young plant I grew in stature—bootlessly.' For the plur. τροφαῖς, cf. Aesch. Ag. 1158 ἀμφὶ σὰς αἰόνας τάλαυν' ἡνυτόμεν τροφαῖς. So infr. 82 φυλακαῖσιν. For the metaphor, cf. Od. xiv. 175 τὸν ἐπεὶ θρέψαν θεοὶ ἔρνεϊ Ἴσον, of Telemachus.

23. αὐτός, sc. πατήρ, supplied from πατὴρ in the previous line.

θεοδμήτω. Poseidon and Apollo had worked as builders for Laomedon, King of Troy, who, when the task was finished, βιήσατο μισθὸν ἅπαντα | ...ἀπειλήσας δ' ἀπέπεμπεν, Il. xxi. 451.

24. ἐκ, 'at the hand of': the action is viewed as *proceeding from* the author: this use of ἐκ for the more usual ὑπὸ, though common in Herodotus, is rare in Attic. Soph. O. T. 854 διεῖπε χρήναι παιδὸς ἐξ ἐμοῦ θανεῖν, Ant. 63.

The slaughter of Priam by Pyrrhus is not mentioned by Homer, but cf. Eur. Tro. 16 πρὸς δὲ κρηπιδῶν (base of the altar) βάθοις | πέπτωκε Πηλεΐδης Ζηνὸς Ἐρκείου θανόν: Virg. Aen. ii. 547 'altaria ad ipsa trementem | traxit, etc.' This same Pyrrhus was to sacrifice another victim at the altar, Polyxena, last (save Cassandra) of Priam's daughters: infr. 566 sq. σφάζειν is properly used of cutting the throat of victims.

26. The emphatic position of ξένος πατρῶος marks the atrocity of the criminal, who added to murder breach of hospitality.

27. ἔχῃ more vivid than the regular ἔχοι. Thompson's Gr. Synt. p. 255.

28. Before ἐπ' ἀκταῖς supply ἄλλοτε, as in Soph. Tr. 11 φοιτῶν ἐναργὲς ταῦρος, ἄλλοτ' ἀλόλος | δράκων κ.τ.λ. Others read ἐπ' ἀκτῆς and take κείμεναι to mean 'I am now lying.'

29. 'tossed in the waves' frequent ebb and flow': the ebb and flow of the waves reminds the poet of the δίαυλος, where the track lay up one side of the course and down again to the starting-place.

30. νῦν δ' ὑπὲρ κ.τ.λ. 'My wraith is present in a dream to my mother.' Cf. Od. iv. 803 of the vision of a friend appearing to Penelope, στῇ δ' ἄρ' ὑπὲρ κεφαλῆς καὶ μιν πρὸς μῦθον ἔειπεν.

31. αἰσσω. This is perhaps the only exception to the rule that in Tragedy ἄσσω, not αἰσσω, is found in trimeter verse. Homer on the contrary always uses the trisyllabic form.

32. τριταῖον φέγγος: a similar redundancy (δευτεραῖος τριταῖος etc. meaning on the second, third etc. day) is found Hipp. 275 τριταῖαν ἡμέραν. Thuc. v. 75 προτεραία ἡμέρα.

αἰωρούμενος, 'hovering': cf. Soph. El. 1390 δνειρον αἰωρούμενον. αἰώρημα was the stage machine used for representing figures above the usual level.

35. *ναῦς ἔχοντες*, 'though provided with ships, yet sit idle...for the son of Peleus, etc.'

37. *τύμβος* is properly the mound or barrow, on the summit of which was placed the *στήλη*, a pillar commemorating the deceased, often adorned with a sculptured likeness, amid surroundings suggested by his vocation: representations of banquets and parting scenes are frequently found also. In Hom. Il. xi. 371 Paris takes aim at Diomedes *στήλη κεκλιμένος ἀνδροκμήτῳ ἐπὶ τύμβῳ* | *Ἴλου Δαρδανίδαο*.

39. *εὐθύνοντας*, sc. *στρατιώτας*, understood from *στράτευμα* above.

40. *ἀδελφὴν* is direct object to *αἰτεῖ*, and *λαβεῖν* an explanatory infinitive.

One post-Homeric version of Achilles' death was that, enamoured of Polyxena, he came to a rendezvous assigned by her, and was there slain by Paris. This would account for his demand for her sacrifice. Cf. Seneca, Tro. 204 *desponsa nostris cineribus Polyxena*.

41. Cf. I. T. 243 *δίπτυχοι νεανῖαι*, | *θεᾷ φίλον πρόσφαγμα καὶ θυτήριον* | *Ἀρτέμιδι*. *φίλον*, 'desired.'

44. *τῷδ'*...*ἐν ἡματι*, 'this coming day': as it is now supposed to be night or early morning.

47. The souls of the unburied could not enter the Elysian fields: hence the importance attached by the Greeks to the due burial even of enemies: cf. Elpenor's prayer to Odysseus (Od. xi. 72) *μή μ' ἀκλαντον ἀθαιπτον ὧν ὀπιθεν καταλείπειν* | *νοσφισθεις, μή τοι τι θεῶν μήνιμα* (cause of divine anger) *γένομαι*.

51. *ὅσονπερ τυχεῖν*. 'The neut. plur. accus. of pronouns and adjectives can stand after *τυγχάνειν* and *κυρεῖν*, not as an accus. directly governed by the verb, but rather as a species of cognate or adverbial accusative.' Jebb on Soph. O. T. 1298. This passage shows that the usage is not confined to *plural* accusatives. Cf. Aesch. Cho. 711 *τυγχάνειν τὰ πρόσφορα*, Eur. Ph. 1666 *οὐ γὰρ ἂν τύχους τάδε*.

53. *περὶ πόδα*. Verbs signifying motion take an accusative of the instrument or limb used, is Porson's remark on Eur. Or. 1427: thus he explains the common phrase *βαλίνειν πόδα*, found in e.g. Eur. El. 94, 1173, Heracl. 805, Phoen. 1412. Prof. Jebb regards *βαλίνειν* in these passages as transitive.

55. 'who after a royal home hast come to see the day of slavery' *ἐκ*, 'after,' denoting change, as Soph. O. T. 454 *τυφλὸς ἐκ δεδορκότος* Xen. Cyr. 3. 1. 17 *ἐξ ἀφρονος σώφρων γεγένηται*.

56. *δούλειον ἡμαρ*. This Homeric use of *ἡμαρ* to denote a condition occurs also Andr. 99. I know of no other instance in tragedy.

57. 'making equipoise of present woe with past prosperity.' σήκωμα is a weight in the balance: cf. Eur. Heracl. 690 *συμκρὸν τὸ σὸν σήκωμα προστίθης φίλοις*.

59. Hecuba, in a frenzy of alarm at the visions of her sleep, appears supported by her fellow captives. *πρὸ δόμων*: the conventional background on the Greek stage from the middle of the fifth century was a palace or temple front. In 17 out of the 25 extant plays of Soph. and Eur. this is required (Haigh, *Attic Theatre*, p. 168): in the Hecuba however an encampment is the background, a fact which the poet seems to have forgotten, when he uses the words *πρὸ δόμων*.

60. Cf. Andr. 64 ὦ φιλιτάτῃ σύνδουλε, σύνδουλος γὰρ εἶ | τῇ πρόσθ' ἀνάσση τῇδε, νῦν δὲ δυστυχεῖ.

62. Anapaestic systems as a rule avoid successions of short syllables; a proceleusmatic (—) is accordingly very rare, and a proceleusmatic followed, as here, by an anapaest, quite extraordinary: it is intended to express frenzied excitement.

63. γεραῖās: cf. Hipp. 170. The quantity of -αι- in such cases is due to the change of *i* to *y* in pronunciation.

64. προσλαζύμεναι: λάζομαι is Epic: λάζυμαι Attic, except in the imperat., when λάζου is used: cf. Elmsley on Med. 1185.

65. 'and I, resting my weight upon thine arm, staff-like, albeit curved, setting forward will quicken the slow-paced goings of my feet.' σκίπων χερὸς is the staff, consisting in thy hand (epexegetic genit.), which differs from real staves, which are straight, by being curved (σκολιός). See Blomfield's Glossary on Aesch. Ag. 81, who well illustrates the poetic usage of softening down a violent metaphor by the addition of a contradictory epithet, marking clearly and at once the distinction between the reality and the similitude: a simple instance is in Aesch. Theb. 64 κύμα χερσαῖον στρατοῦ, 'a wave (but a land wave) consisting in the army.' προτιθείσα, setting one foot before the other.

68. στεροπα Διός is taken by most editors as = the sun, which seems inconsistent with ξννυχος in the next line. Possibly the shooting beams of the rising sun are meant.

70. Her agitation is expressed by the asyndeton, δειμασι φάσμασιν. δειματα νυκτίπλαγκτα (Aesch. Cho. 524) are terrifying visions, which drive men from their beds.

71. μελανοπτερύγων δνέρων, cf. infr. 705 φάσμα μελανόπτερον.

72. ἀποπέμπομαι, 'I strive to avert' by invocation and prayer: so infr. 97.

76. ἐδάην, found in Trag. only in lyrical passages.

80. ἀγκυρ', a slight anachronism, as in the times in which the action of this play is placed, not anchors, but heavy perforated stones (εύναλ), were used.

Porson quotes a fragment of Soph. ἀλλ' εἰσι μητρὶ παῖδες ἀγκυραὶ βίου.

81. ξείνου πατρῖου, cf. supr. 26 ξένος πατρῶος: Cobet distinguishes πατρῶος = τὸ τοῦ πατρός, πάτριον = τὸ τῶν προγόνων.

φυλακαῖσιν: perhaps the plur. conveys the notion of 'continued protection': see τροφαῖς, supr. 20.

85. ἀλλαστος, epic word, 'unabating.' Cf. Il. xxiv. 549 μηδ' ἀλλαστον ὀδύρεο.

86. φρίσσει ταρβεῖ: for the asyndeton, cf. supr. 70.

87. Helenus and Cassandra were two of Priam's children, who had the gift of prophecy. From Homer we learn little of Helenus, but other writers tell us that he became reconciled to the Greeks, and settled in Epirus, where he received Aeneas (Virg. Aen. iii. 346 sq.). Cassandra is famous for her beauty only in Homer (λέλη χρυσέη Ἀφροδίτῃ), who knows nothing of the prophetic powers, which the later Epic writers assigned to her.

θεῖος, 'inspired.' εἰσίδω, deliberative; Thompson Gr. Synt. § 132.

90. 'for in my dream I saw a dappled bind, and a wolf rending her throat with bloody fangs: and the hind had been torn ruthlessly from my knees.' Notice the change of tense, σφαζομέναν (the word suggests sacrifice, cf. supr. 24 n.) of continuous, σπασθείσαν of momentary action.

αἶμων, only here and Aesch. Supp. 847. χαλᾶ, 'jaw': so Hesychius, though the usual meaning of χηλή is 'hoof' or 'talons.'

92. τόδε, 'this too,' viz. the following.

93. Cf. supr. 37, 40.

96. ἀπὸ...πέμψατε, 'avert': supr. 72.

98. ἐλιάσθην seems to mean 'have come hither out of my way': λιάσθαι is entirely an epic word = 'to go aside.' It was doubtless suggested to the poet by ἀλλαστος, supr. 85, and is a good instance of the tendency in the poets, in Euripides especially, to repeat a rare word, often in an entirely different meaning and connection, very soon after they have first employed it.

102. 'spear-won at the lance's point,' a redundant expression, easy to parallel, e.g. Bacch. 571 εὐδαιμονίας ὀλβοδῶταν (Pflugk).

105. 'laden with a burden of heavy tidings.'

108. δόξαι, the regular term for expressing the resolutions of the

Athenian assembly: infr. 124 *ρήτορες* would be equally familiar to Athenian ears.

109. *θέσθαι* = *ποιήσασθαι*, by Ionic usage, allowed in Tragedy.

110. The arms described in Il. xviii. were given to Ulysses. *χρυστοῖς*: that in the heroic-age gold was very plentiful, is proved not only by the frequent references to it in Homer (where the epithet *χρύσεος* is often merely picturesque, or means 'ornamented with gold,') but by the evidence of the tombs at Mycenae and elsewhere, which yielded a profusion of solid gold cups and ornaments of all kinds. India, Arabia, Lydia and the Caucasus provided the metal in the early period: the famous gold mines of Thrace were not fully worked till Philip of Macedon developed them.

112. In this passage and in I. T. 1134 *πρότοναι* are explained to be the ropes '*quibus vela vel contrahuntur vel expanduntur*' (Hermann): elsewhere they are the two forestays of the mast, fastened from the masthead to the bows, the backstay being called *ἐπίτρονος*. I see no reason to depart from the traditional meaning here; we must remember that Greek ships were square-rigged, and a favourable or following breeze would belly the sails out till they pressed upon the forestays, running forward from the mast. In the passage from the I. T. the reading is doubtful.

116. 'clashing waves of great strife met.'

ξυνέπαισε, intr. Cf. Soph. O. C. 1503 *χάλαζ'* *ἐπιρράξασα*, 'bursting on' one: Herod. i. 80 *ὁ ποταμὸς συρρήγνυσι*: Ar. Plut. 805 *ἐς τὴν οἰκίαν ἐπεισπέπαικεν*: Eur. Hipp. 1198 *ἐρημον χώρον εἰσεβάλλομεν*: Soph. O. T. 1252 *εἰσέπαισεν Οἰδίπουν*.

117. lit. 'opinion spread dividedly,' a Homeric phrase: cf. *δίχα θυμὸν ἔχοντες*: Herod. vi. 109 *ἐγλινοντο δίχα αἱ γνώμαι*.

118. With *τοῖς μὲν διδόναι* supply *δοκοῦν* from *οὐχὶ δοκοῦν* in the next line. *δοκοῦν* is accus. abs., cf. Hadley Gr. Gr. § 973.

121. *ἀνέχων*, 'remaining constant to': cf. Soph. Aj. 212 *σε στέβας ἀνέχει Αἴας*.

Βάκχης is Cassandra: cf. supr. 88.

123. *τῷ Θησεῖδᾳ*. Acamas and Demophon, the Scholiast tells us. Homer does not mention these two sons of Theseus and Phaedra. Virgil (Aen. ii. 262) includes Acamas in the list of the warriors concealed in the wooden horse. *ἴδω*, cf. Homeric *ἴδω* "Αρης, and supr. 20.

124. *δισσῶν*, i.e. one speech each; it does not mean 'taking opposite sides,' for *γν. μιᾷ συνεχωρετην*: the word was probably introduced merely for the verbal antithesis with *μιᾷ*.

In Athens by *ρήτορες* were meant habitual speakers in the *ἐκκλησία*: references to these professional politicians of the democracy are very frequent and often uncomplimentary. Eur. himself says (fr. 600) *νόμον ... ἄνω τε καὶ κάτω | ῥήτωρ ταρασσών πολλάκις λυμαίνεται*. It is not without significance that these two early *ρήτορες* were *δῖω' Ἀθηνῶν*.

126. *στεφανοῦν*, 'honour with libations,' for the more usual *στέφειν*, Soph. Ant. 431 *χοαῖσι τρισπόνδοισι τὸν νέκυν στέφει*.

127. *χλωρῶ*, 'fresh.'

128. The military services of Achilles establish a claim on the Greeks not to be postponed to the mere connection of their general Agamemnon with a Trojan captive.

130. 'on either side the eager heat of contentious speech was equal.'

κατατείν means 'strained to the full': cf. the intr. use of the participle *κατατείνας* = 'strenuously,' Plat. Rep. 358 D *διὸ κατατείνας ἐρώ, τὸν ἄδικον βίον ἐπαινῶν*: id. ib. 367 B.

131. 'shifty prater, smooth-tongued flatterer of the mob.' *κόπισ*, a prater; *κοπίς*, a knife.

135. *δούλων σφ. εἶνεκ'* = 'to save a slave girl's life.' *ἀπωθεῖν*, 'to slight.'

139. *οἰχομένοις*, 'departed,' i.e. dead.

141. *ὅσον οὐκ ἤδη*, 'almost immediately.' *ὅσον οὐκ* is only used in this sense ('almost') when speaking of time: *μόνον οὐκ* is used in other connections. Thuc. i. 36 *τὸν μέλλοντα καὶ ὅσον οὐ παρόντα πόλεμον*: iv. 125 *νομίσαντες πολλαπλασίου ἐπιέναι, ὅσον δὲ οὐπω παρῆναι*.

143. *ὀρμήσων κ.τ.λ.*, 'and to tear her from thy aged arms.' *ὀρμάω* is generally used of 'urging towards' not 'taking from.'

145. There is a metrical objection to this line, the succession of four short syllables caused by the anapaest *ικέτις* following the dactyl *-μεμνονος*: cf. supr. 62 n.

146. *κήρυσσε*, 'summon.' Il. ii. 51 *κήρύσσειν ἀγορήνδε Ἀχαιοῖς*.

150. *ἐπιδεῖν*, 'live to see.' Cf. Thompson on Plat. Gorg. 473 C.

τύμβου προπετῇ, 'quick basting to her grave.' This seems better than 'falling before the tomb' of Achilles.

152. 'while the darkly-gleaming tide | wellet, wellet from the neck, which the golden mockeries deck' is Mr Way's translation.

μελαναυγῆς is *ἄπαξ λεγόμενον*.

'*mas erat apud veteres virginibus plurimum auri gestare*' remarks Porson, quoting Il. ii. 872 of the Carian leader *ὅς καὶ χρυσὸν ἔχων πόλεμόνδ' ἔεν, ἥντε κούρη*.

154. ἀπύσω. ἡπύειν is found in Tragedy only in lyric passages, and always in this, the Doric, form.

156. Observe the heavy spondaic rhythm of these mournful lines.

γῆρως. Causal genit. 'wretched by reason of,' Thompson Gr. Synt.

P. 94.

161. πρέσβυς, Priam.

162. πόλαν, sc. ὁδόν: for this ellipse cf. the expression τὴν ἄλλως, Plat. Theaet. 172 E οἱ ἀγῶνες οὐδέποτε τὴν ἄλλως ἀλλ' αἰεὶ τὴν περὶ αὐτοῦ, 'the trial is never for an indifferent stake, but always immediately concerns the speaker' (Campbell). Dem. (Ol. 3) 34. 11 (Reiske) καὶ ταῦτ' οὐ τὴν ἄλλως (*frustra*) προήρημαι λέγειν.

163. ἦσω, sc. ἐμαντόν: the text however is not certain.

167. ἀπωλέσατ' ὠλέσατ', by a common Greek idiom only the simple verb is repeated: cf. Bacch. 1065 κατῆγεν ἦγεν ἦγεν: Hipp. 1374 προσαπόλλυτέ μ' ὅλλυτε τὸν δυσδαίμονα. 'Ye have undone me with your news' (κάκ' ἐνεγκούσαι).

170. ἄγησαι...ἄγησαι. The repeated words and phrases in this lament of Hecuba heighten the pathetic effect. 'O weary, weary feet, lead me bowed with years, lead me' etc.

173. These lines are parodied in Ar. Nub. 1165 ὦ τέκνον, ὦ παῖ, ἐξελθ' οἴκων, | αἶε σοῦ πατρός. As the Nubes was produced in B.C. 423, the date of the Hecuba must be placed earlier than that year.

177. 'what fresh horror hast thou announced, drawing me forth in such amaze from the palace, scared even as a bird?'

179. ἐξέπταξας, 'scared me from' the house: this causal use of πτήσω is perhaps without parallel; for Hom. Il. xiv. 40 is condemned, partly on the ground of this very use: and Theogn. 1015 (quoted by L. and S.) is plainly intr.

181. δυσφημεῖν τινά is to speak in an ill-omened way of a person. Here οἶμοι conveys the omen. In Heracl. 600, Iolaus bids Makaria, who is about to be sacrificed, χαίρε· δυσφημεῖν γὰρ ἄξομαι θεῶν | ἧ σὸν κατήρκεται σῶμα: Soph. El. 1182.

φροῖμα, i.e. οἶμοι: cf. Hipp. 566 τὸ μέντοι φροῖμον (referring to ἐξειργάσμεθα in the previous line) κακὸν τόδε. Phoen. 1336.

182. σᾶς ψυχᾶς, for genit. cf. 156 n.

183. δαρόν: this, the Doric form, is alone found in Trag.: so too κυναγός, ὀπαδός etc. (Pors. on Or. 26): cf. Rutherford, New Phrynichus, p. 496.

184. δειμαίνω τί ποτ' ἀναστένεις = δειμαίνω, ἀποροῦσα ὅτι ἀναστένεις. For τί = ὅτι, cf. Soph. Aj. 794 ὥστε μ' ὠδίνειν (= δέισααν ἀπορεῖν) τί φῆς.

188. σφάξαι σε συντείνει, 'is bent upon thy sacrifice.'

192. ἀμέγαρτα κακῶν, cf. Hipp. 849 φίλα γυναικῶν: infr. 716 κατάρατ' ἀνδρῶν.

195. 'that a decree concerning thy life has been made by vote of the Greeks' is a somewhat vague statement to come *after* the plain words of 188—190: some editors transpose the lines.

199. αὖ, in addition to thy previous woes.

202. 'thou hast me now no more, no more, thy child, to share in wretchedness the bondage of thy wretched age.'

205. σκύμνον οὐρίθρεπταν, cf. Or. 1493 βάκχαι σκύμνον ἐν χεροῖν ὄρειαν ξυνήρπασαν.

206. δειλαία δειλαίαν, 'woe is me! woe is thee!'

207. χειρὸς ἀναρπαστάν, cf. supr. 90.

210. her marriage will be with the shades: cf. her lament infr. 416.

211. σοῦ, sc. τὸν βίον.

213. 'my life, all misery and insult, I weep not after, but the better lot, to die, has fallen to me.'

214. μετακλαίομαι, 'pursue with lamentation'; the force of μετα- seen in μετέρχομαι: others take μετα- here of succession, 'lament in turn,' and compare μεταστένω, Med. 996.

216. καὶ μὴν, introducing the new person: Hipp. 899 καὶ μὴν ὃδ' αὐτὸς παῖς σὸς εἰς καιρὸν πάρα | Ἰππόλυτος: Soph. Ant. 526, 1180: O. C. 549: Eur. Andr. 515 καὶ μὴν δέδορκα τόνδε Πηλέα πέλας | σπονδῇ τιθέντα δεῦρο γηραιὸν πόδα.

219. ψῆφον κρανθεῖσαν, cf. Aesch. Supp. 942 τοιάδε δημόπρακτος ἐκ πόλεως μίλα | ψῆφος κέκρανται: Eur. Andr. 1273.

220. ἔδοξ' Ἀχαιοῖς κ.τ.λ. This is framed on the analogy of an Athenian ψήφισμα: notice its blunt, businesslike wording.

221. ὀρθὸν χῶμ', cf. 37 n.

223. ἐπιστάτης ἐπίστη: such repetition was not disagreeable to Greek ears: it is akin to expressions like δραμεῖν δρόμον etc.

224. τοῦδε—pointing towards Achilles' tomb.

225. οἶσθ' οὖν δ δρᾶσον; 'dost thou know, what thou must do?' The Greek imperative can be used in subordinate clauses: cf. Thompson Gr. Synt. p. 137, Hadley Gr. Gr. § 875: and by all means Jebb's note on Soph. O. T. 543.

μήτ' ἀποσπασθῆς βίᾳ, 'do not make force necessary to take her from thee.' Verbs of depriving take a double accusative (cf. Thompson Gr. Synt. p. 72), e.g. Soph. O. C. 866 ὅς μ', ὦ κάκιστε, ψιλὸν δμμ' ἀποσπάσας κ.τ.λ.: in the passive construction one accus. becomes the

subject: so here, active, *μὴ ἀποσπάσης με τὴν θυγατέρα*: passive, *μὴ ἀποσπασθῆς τὴν θυγατέρα*.

227. 'recognize what strength you have,' i.e. how little.

228. *τοι* introduces a remark of a proverbial nature, cf. Soph. Aj.

1350 *τόν τοι τύραννον εὔσεβειν οὐ ῥάδιον*.

231. *κἀγώγ'*, I too, as well as my husband and children.

ἄρ' οὐκ ἔθνησκον οὐ με χρῆν θανεῖν, 'I did not, as now I know (*ἄρα*), die, where I should have died,' i.e. in Troy: cf. for sense of *ἄρα*, Hipp. 359.

232. *ὅπως ὁρῶ κακῶν κ.τ.λ.*: this is the *ἀγών μέγας* of 229.

234—237. The literal translation seems to be, 'if it is permitted to a slave to put to a freeman such questions as are not offensive nor calculated to wound his feelings, then it is fitting for an answer to have been given by you, and for me, who put the questions, to listen.' Hecuba asks in a somewhat roundabout fashion, 'if I ask you, meaning no offence, certain questions, will you reply to them?' It is possible that *εἰ*, l. 234, means 'whether': in that case the sense would be, 'it is for you to say, for me to acquiesce in your decision, whether I a slave may ask you certain questions.'

235. *καρδίας δηκτήρια*: 'the genitive is used with adjectives of transitive action, where the corresponding verbs would have the accusative.' Hadley Gr. Gr. § 754 a: so *ὀψιμαθὴς ἀδικίας*, 'late in learning injustice.'

237. *τοὺς ἐρωτῶντας*: when persons speak of themselves in the plural instead of the singular (using *we* for *I*), even though a woman be speaking, the masculine plural is used. Cf. Soph. El. 399 *πεσούμεθ'*, *εἰ χρή, πατρὶ τιμωρούμενοι* (Electra is speaking).

238. *χρόνον*, emphatic: 'mere *time* I do not grudge': for the genit. cf. H. F. 333 *οὐ φθονῶ πέπλων*.

239. Cf. Hom. Od. iv. 244 sq. *αὐτόν μιν πληγῇσιν ἀεικελῆσι δαμάσσας, | σπείρα κάκ' (rags) ἀμφ' ὤμοισι βαλὼν, οἰκῇ ἐοικῶς, | ἀνδρῶν δυσμενέων κατέδυν πόλιν εὐρύαγυιαν*. Eur. (?) Rhes. 710 sq. *ἔβα καὶ πάρος | κατὰ πόλιν, ὑπαφρον ὄμμ' ἔχων, | ῥακοδῶτψ στολᾷ πυκασθεῖς*. Odysseus disguised as a beggar made his way as a spy into Troy, *κατὰ δὲ φρόνιν* (information) *ἦγαγε πολλήν*.

242. *ἄκρας καρδίας*, the mere surface of the heart, cf. Aesch. Ag. 805 *νῦν δ' οὐκ ἀπ' ἀκρας φρενός κ.τ.λ.* 'it lies deep-printed in my heart.'

243. Cf. Od. iv. 250 *ἐγὼ (Helen) δέ μιν ὅη ἀνέγνων τοῖον ἔοντα*. Eur. makes her share the secret with Hecubā.

246. ἐνθανεῖν, 'become numb with holding.'

247. δούλος ὦν ἐμὸς τότε, as I now am yours.

254. 'yours is a thankless generation, who yearn with striving for the honours of the demagogue.'

255. 'nor be ye friends of mine, who etc.' The poet here is looking at contemporary politics, and lamenting the growing influence of that product of democracy, the trained speaker (ῥήτωρ), whose only aim is self-advancement, and who does not hesitate to desert the friend, to whose help he perhaps owes everything, if he may thereby improve his position with his patrons and audience, the mob. Odysseus, deserting in her need Hecuba, who had preserved his life, serves as his text. If we wish to grasp Eur.'s position with regard to this class of his contemporaries, the following passages are noteworthy: Or. 893 sqq., Hipp. 488 sqq., Bacch. 269 sqq., Supp. 421 sqq.

258. But even adopting for the moment this standard, what clever subtlety can you devise for condemning this child to death? what specious pretext can you adduce? Not the necessity of human sacrifice certainly on an altar intended for oxen. Does Achilles' blood call for the blood of those who brought about his death? Then Helen, not the guiltless Polyxena, should be the victim. She too is fairest of the captives, if beauty be an object. So much for the mere justice of the case. But think further, how great a claim I have on your personal gratitude. Once you were my suppliant: now I am yours: shall it go for nothing, that I saved your life? This child is all I have left to me in the wide world: spare her: it becomes the possessors of power to set due limits to its exercise, to reflect that it is fleeting: one day brought me low, and may you. This is the day of your might: if you do but ask a boon of the Greeks, you will obtain it: so prevailing is the petition of the powerful.

260. τὸ χρῆν, a shortened form either of the infin. χρῆναι (cf. ζῆν, διψῆν), or of the partic. χρεών. In Eur. H. F. 828 τὸ χρῆν νιν ἐξέσωσεν, we meet the same difficulty. Nauck would in both passages read τὸ χρῆ. Philologically χρῆν may be a regular infinitive: χρῆ-εν = χρῆν, as λέγε-εν = λέγειν.

263. εἰς τῆνδ' is emphatic, 'is Achilles acting justly in aiming (metaphor from a bow) death at Polyxena?'

264. ἤδε γ', she at any rate, whatever others may have done.

265. τάφῳ προσφάγματα: cf. supr. 41. χρῆν = ἐχρῆν, imperf. It would appear that χρῆν = χρῆ ἦν, and that ἐ- is due to the origin of the word being forgotten, and its consequent treatment as an ordinary

imperfect: its accentuation *ἐχρήν* (*ἐχρην* would be natural, if it were an augmented tense) favours this view.

268. οὐχ ἡμῶν τόδε, lit. 'this requirement is not found with us,' i.e. Polyxena speaking through her advocate Hecuba.

270. οὐδὲν ἥσσον = 'far more,' an instance of litotes. This figure of speech was a favourite one with the Greeks, who were in the habit of emphasizing a case by intentionally understating it.

271. ἀμιλλᾶσθαι is to contend with a person: the kind of contest may be added as a cognate accusative, e.g. Plat. Legg. 833 Α ἀμιλλᾶσθαι στάδιον: Eur. Hel. 546 σέ, τήν ὄρεγμα δεινὸν ἡμιλλημένην | τύμβου 'πὶ κρηπίδα, 'who hast contended with me in a desperate effort to reach the tomb,' i.e. to reach it before I could reach you: Hel. 164 ποῖον ἀμιλλαθῶ γόν; lit. 'in what competition of lamentation am I to engage' in order to express myself adequately: so here, 'his claims based on strict justice (cf. ἐνδίκως, 263) I contend with in this argument,' i.e. I bring this argument against them. So Hipp. 971 τί ταῦτα σοῖς ἀμιλλῶμαι λόγοις; τῷ δικαίῳ, 'strict justice,' is opposed to ἃ ἀντιδοῦναι δεῖ σε, 'the personal claim I have on you.'

274. προσπίτνων, 'in your supplication.'

275. ἀνθ-, 'in my turn.'

276. ἀπαιτῶ, 'demand as my due.' Cf. L. and S. s.v. ἀποδίδωμι I. I: so in Latin, *reddo*.

277. ἀποσπάσης...κτάνητε: the first is the work of Odysseus alone: the latter of the Greeks generally, who had voted for the sacrifice.

281. Porson quotes from a fragment of Eur. ἀλλ' ἦδε μ' ἐξέσωσεν· ἦδε μοι τροφὸς | μήτηρ ἀδελφὴ δμῶϊς ἀγκυρα στέγη: cf. too Soph. Aj. 518 τίς δῆτ' ἐμοὶ γένοιτ' ἂν ἀντὶ σοῦ πατρὸς; | τίς πλοῦτος; Ov. Her. iii. 52 *tu dominus, tu vir, tu mihi frater eras*: and the touching appeal of Andromache, Il. vi. 429 Ἐκτορ, ἀτὰρ σύ μοι ἐσσι πατὴρ καὶ πότνια μήτηρ | ἦδὲ κασιγνητός, σὺ δέ μοι θαλερός παρακοίτης.

284. κἀγὼ γάρ ἦ, sc. εὐτυχής.

285. On double accus. cf. 225 n.

288. παρηγ. παρηγορεῖν is Ion. and Trag.: παραμυθεῖσθαι Attic. 'Counsel them soothingly, and say it is held shameful etc.'

φθόνος, sc. ἐστὶ = it is an invidious thing to do.

291. ἐν ὑμῖν, in Greece: cf. Dem. c. Mid. § 46 κὰν εἰς δοῦλον ὑβρίξῃ τις, ὁμοίως ἔδωκεν ὁ νομοθέτης ὑπὲρ τούτου γραφήν· οὐ γὰρ ὅστις ὁ πάσχων ᾤετο δεῖν σκοπεῖν, ἀλλὰ τὸ πρᾶγμα ὁποῖόν τι τὸ γιγνόμενον.

293. κἄν κακῶς λέγῃς, 'even if you speak in a bad cause' or 'a cause which most of your hearers think bad' (Paley): it may be how-

ever that *κακῶς* means 'haltingly.' So Tro. 914. These lines are translated by Ennius, *haec tu elsi perverse dices, facile Achivos flexeris; | nam opulenti quom loquuntur pariter atque ignobiles, | eadem dicta eademque oratio aequa non aequae valet.*

295. τῶν δοκούντων, sc. εἶναι τι, 'men of position.' Plat. Gorg. 472 A, Euthyd. 303 C τῶν σεμνῶν καὶ δοκούντων τι εἶναι: cf. Pind. Nem. vii. 30 ἀλλὰ κοινὸν γὰρ ἔρχεται | κῦμ' Ἀίδα, πέσε δ' ἀδόκητον ἐν καὶ δοκόντα. Cf. ὁ ἔχων, 'rich.'

296. οὕτω στερρός, ἥτις κ.τ.λ., cf. Hel. 501 ἀνὴρ γὰρ οὐδεὶς ὧδε βάρβαρος φρένας | δς ὄνομ' ἀκούσας τοῦμὸν οὐ δώσει βοράν.

297. μακρῶν, prob. 'loud,' like Hom. μακρὸν ἀντεῖν: lit. 'so as to be heard afar.'

298. ἐκβάλοι δάκρυ, a favourite phrase with Eur., who uses it very frequently, e.g. I. A. 451, 477, Ion 924, Hel. 957, 1563, H. F. 1356. It occurs in Hom. Od. 19. 362. Neither Soph. nor Aesch. I believe employs it.

299. τῷ θυμουμένῳ, 'through anger.' For the neut. partic. used in an abstract sense, where the infin. would be usual, cf. Soph. Phil. 675 τὸ γὰρ | νοσοῦν ποθεῖ σε συμπαραστάτην λαβεῖν. Thuc. i. 36 τὸ δεδιός, vii. 68 τὸ θυμούμενον τῆς γνώμης, i. 142 τὸ μὴ μελετῶν (failure to practise). This use is specially frequent in Thuc. Antiphon too (118, 16) has τὸ θυμούμενον τῆς γνώμης.

300. ποιοῦ, 'consider.'

301. τὸ σὸν σῶμα, 'you personally.'

305. σὴν παῖδα δοῦναι σφάγιον, in apposition to ᾧ, supr. 303. ᾧ εἶπον means 'the suggestion I made.'

306. Hecuba, in the corresponding part of her speech, had brought a charge of ingratitude against Odysseus and selfish politicians generally (254 ἀχάριστον ὑμῶν σπέρμα κ.τ.λ.). Here Odysseus retorts: the real ingratitude, an ingratitude which is a source of weakness in a state, is the failure to duly recompense deserving citizens: 'if we fail to grant Achilles his request, we shall be no better than you barbarians (inf. 327), and Greece, if she resembles you in this respect, will also resemble you in her decay (330).'

308. φέρεται. φέρεσθαι is used of carrying off a prize. Il. xxiii. 663 αὐτὰρ ὁ νικηθεὶς δέπας οἷσεται ἀμφικύπελλον, ix. 127 and very frequently. Herod. i. 31 δοκέων πάγχυ δευτερεῖα οἰσεσθαι 'win second place.' Soph. O. T. 500 μάντις πλέον ἢ γῶ φέρεται.

309. ἡμῖν ἄξιος τιμῆς, 'worthy of honour at our hands': cf. Alc. 433 ἄξια δέ μοι | τιμῆς. Ar. Ach. 633 φησὶν δ' εἶναι πολλῶν ἀγαθῶν ἄξιος

ὑμῖν ὁ ποιητής. Akin is the use of the dat. with δέχομαι: cf. Hom. II. i. 186 δέξατο οἱ σκῆπτρον πατρῷον: infr. 535 δέξαι χοάς μοι (so Porson) τάσδε κληλητῆρους: Aesch. Cho. 762 Ὀρέστην ἐξεδέξαμην πατρί.

310. 'who died for Hellas nobly as man may' (Way). Notice the emphatic position of ἀνὴρ.

311. βλέποντι, 'alive,' cf. 295 n.

φιλοφ χρώμεσθ', 'treat as a friend.'

317—320. 'in life I can be content with little, but I would have my tomb honoured after death.'

319. ἀξιούμενον, absol. 'honoured.' Cf. Thuc. v. 16. 3 βουλόμενος, ἐν ᾧ ἀπαθὴς ἦν καὶ ἡξιούτο, διασώσασθαι τὴν εὐτυχίαν: Aesch. Ag. 903 τοιοῖσδε τοὶ νιν ἀξιῷ προσφθέγμασιν: Eur. Or. 1210 ὑμεναίοισιν ἀξιουμένη. ἀξ. is predicate. ὁρᾶσθαι, 'be seen to be.'

320. τὸν ἐμὸν, emphatic. 'I should wish *my* tomb to be honoured, and therefore I am anxious to honour the tomb of another.' Cf. the Sophoclean Odysseus in Aj. 1365 urging the burial of Ajax, his enemy, καὶ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἐνθάδ' ἵξομαι.

διὰ μακροῦ, 'lasting.' The usual meaning would be 'after a long interval.' It is possible so to take it here: χάρις was not his in life, but came after death, διὰ μακροῦ, i.e. delayed.

323. γράϊαι, supr. 274. The use of ἡδὲ, 'and,' is rare in tragedy, but it occurs ten times in Aesch., twice in Soph., and twice in Eur. (here and H. F. 30). σέθεν is out of place. πρεσβύται, masc.

327. ἀμαθία signifies 'the absence of training or discipline, and the condition which this absence produces.' Verrall on Med. 223. Thus it is naturally to be expected in βάρβαροι, the point of the present passage.

For ὀφλεῖν, 'incur the reproach of,' cf. Soph. Ant. 1028 αὐθαδία τοὶ σκαιότητ' ὀφλισκάνει. ὀφλισκάνειν means to bring on oneself some disadvantage, e.g. βλάβην, or the reputation for some bad quality (expressed by the *name* of the quality simply), e.g. μωρίαν, ἀνομίαν, δειλίαν, κακίαν.

328. οἱ βάρβαροι, nom. for voc., Hadley Gr. Gr. § 707.

330. ὥς ἄν=so that, in that case. Both ὥς and ὥς ἄν in final clauses are extremely rare in Attic prose. For the sense, cf. supr. 306 n.

332. τὸ δοῦλον, 'slavery,' cf. Ion 556 ἐκπεφεύγαμεν τὸ δοῦλον.

333. πολμῆ, 'endures,' cf. supr. 326. χρή of what is right) (δεῖ of what is expedient.

335. μάτην ῥιφθέντες, cf. Med. 1404 μάτην ἔπος ἔρριπται.

337. 'as from nightingale's throat, pour forth each various strain of

supplication.' In the Greek, Polyxena is compared to the nightingale's throat, not the nightingale: cf. *κόμαι χαρίτεσσιν ὁμοῖαι*, Il. xvii. 51. For the sad and varied song of the nightingale, cf. the beautiful lines in Od. xix. 518 *ὥς δ' ὅτε...χλωρῆς ἀηδῶν | καλὸν ἀείδῃσιν ἕαρος νέον ἱσταμένοιο | δενδρέων ἐν πετάλοισι καθεζομένη πυκινούσιν, | ἥ τε θαμὰ τρωπῶσα χέει πολυηχέα φωνήν, | παῖδ' ὀλοφυρομένη.*

340. *πρόφασιν*, 'plea.' The Scholiast explains it = *ἀφορμὴν τοῦ πείθειν*, 'a starting-place for persuasion.'

345. *τὸν ἑμὸν* is hard to translate literally: rendered freely the sense is 'I invoke not Zeus, the suppliant's help, so thou art safe from him.'

348. *φιλόψυχος*, cf. supr. 315.

349. *δεῖ*, cf. supr. 333 n.

350. 'this was the first element in my life.'

351. *ἐλπιδὼν καλῶν ὑπο*, 'with fair hope': for *ὑπὸ*, of accompanying circumstances, cf. Hipp. 1299 *ὥς ὑπ' εὐκλείας θάνη*, 'with honour': H. F. 289 *ὥστ' οὐκ ἀνεκτὸν δειλίας θανεῖν ὑπο*, 'with cowardice': Ar. Ach. 1001 *πίνειν ὑπὸ σάλπιγγος*.

352. 'causing no small contention for my hand, to whose hearth and home I am to come.' *ζῆλος* is honourable rivalry. *γάμων*, objective genit., Thompson Gr. Synt. § 98.

353. *ἔχουσα*, 'causing': *ἔχειν* sometimes almost = *παρέχειν*. The shade of meaning is not difficult to catch, as to be in possession of a thing implies the ability to offer or present it to the attention of another: cf. Thuc. ii. 41 *μόνη* (Athens) *οὔτε τῷ πολεμίῳ ἐπελθόντι ἀγανάκτησιν ἔχει ὑφ' οἷων κακοπαθεῖ*, 'contains no grounds for indignation at the thought of being conquered by so unworthy a foe': iv. 1 *ὁρῶντες προσβολὴν ἔχον τὸ χωρίον τῆς Σικελίας*, 'affording an approach.'

ἀφίξομαι, the future here and infr. 360 *ὦνήσεται* is due to the vivid mental realising of the situation by the speaker.

355. *μετὰ*, with dat. 'among': poet. and somewhat rare, cf. Eur. fr. 362 (Erechtheus). 26 *ἀλλ' ἐμοίγ' ἔστω τέκνα | ἄ καὶ μάχοιτο καὶ μετ' ἀνδράσιν πρέποι*: Il. xxiv. 258 *Ἐκτορα ὃς θεὸς ἔσκε μετ' ἀνδράσιν*.

356. 'peer of the gods in all beside, save only in my mortality.' Before *πλὴν* understand *πάντα*.

358. *ἐρᾶν τίθησιν*, 'makes me to desire,' cf. Med. 718 *παίδων γονὰς | σπεῖραλ σε θήσω*.

οὐκ εἰωθὸς ὄν. For the double partic. Porson compares Ar. Ran. 721 *οὔτε γὰρ τούτοισιν οὔσιν οὐ κεκιβδηλευμένοις*.

359. *ὦμῶν φρένας*, 'cruel-hearted.' *δεσποτῶν...ὅστις*, 'when the

antecedent is plural, the relative is sometimes singular, referring to an individual of the number. Plat. Rep. 566 D ἀσπάζεταιται πάντας, ᾧ ἂν περιτυγχάνη.' Hadley Gr. Gr. § 629 b.

361. Cf. the very similar passage, Tro. 490 (Hecuba speaks) δούλη γυνὴ γραῦς Ἑλλάδ' εἰσαφίξομαι. | ἃ δ' ἐστὶ γήρα τῷδ' ἀσυμφορώτατα, | τούτοις με προσθήσουσιν, ἣ θυρῶν λάτριν | κληῖδας φυλάσσειν, τὴν τεκούσαν Ἔκτορα, | ἣ σιτοποιεῖν, κ.τ.λ.

365. As 357—364 answers 349, 350, so 365, 6 answers 351—353. Notice the contempt implied by ποθεν.

366. χρανεῖ, 'will pollute.' As slaves were incapable of legitimate marriage, Polyxena regards connection with one as mere defilement.

367. Polyxena dismisses with horror the prospect of such an union, and announces her intention of becoming the bride of Hades ("Αἰδῷ προστιθεῖσ' ἐμὸν δέμας).

ἐλευθέρων, she regards herself as still free, in comparison with the slavery she has just depicted: cf. Aesch. Ag. 328 οὐκέτ', ἐξ ἐλευθέρου | δέρης ἀπομυῶζουσι φιλτάτων μόρον. ἀφίημι' is used of voluntary action.

372. μῆτερ, σὺ δ'. This order of words is regular. 'When we suddenly turn our conversation from one person to another, the order is first the name, then the pronoun, and third the particle δέ,' is Porson's note on Or. 614. Cf. Soph. El. 150 Νιόβα, σέ δ' ἔγωγε νέμω θεόν: infr. 1287, and very frequently.

373. μὴ must be understood before λέγουσα: cf. Soph. Phil. 771 ἐφίεμαι | (μῆτε) ἐκόντα μῆτ' ἄκοντα μῆτε τῷ τέχνῃ | κείνοις μεθεῖναι ταῦτα: Ant. 267: Ar. Av. 695. συμβούλου, 'join with me in wishing for death' not only for me, but for yourself; cf. infr. 391.

374. μὴ κατ' ἀξίαν, for μὴ, cf. Hadley Gr. Gr. 1027.

377. μᾶλλον εὐτυχέστερος, cf. Hipp. 485 μᾶλλον ἀλγίων: Aesch. Supp. 673: Soph. Ant. 1210.

379. 'a marvellous stamp and of credit among men is it to come of a good stock, and the glory of high birth becometh more and more glorious for those whose life is worthy of their lineage.'

χαρακτήρ and ἐπίσημος, metaphor from coining: cf. Med. 519.

The meaning of δεινός is well shown by the opening words of the chorus in Soph. Antig. 331 πολλὰ τὰ δεινὰ κοῦδὲν ἀνθρώπου δεινότερον πέλει, 'wonders are many, and none is more wonderful than man,' Jebb.

380. κάπῃ μείζον ἔρχεται, cf. Soph. Phil. 259 ἣ δ' ἐμὴ νόσος | ἀεὶ τέθῃλε κάπῃ μείζον ἔρχεται.

382. 'well hast thou spoken, daughter, well: but in that word lies bitter grieving.'

384. **ψόγον**, of neglecting the dead hero.

387. **κεντεῖτε**, 'stab,' cf. *infr.* 1162..

388. Homer gives no account of Achilles' death, though the dying Hector (*Il.* xxii. 359) prophesies of that day *ὅτε κέν σε Πάρις καὶ Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων | ἐσθλὸν ἔδντ' ὀλέσωσιν ἐνὶ Σκαίῃσι πύλῃσιν*. The later accounts of the manner of his death vary greatly.

389. **ὦ γεραιά**, emphatic: almost = *τὴν γεραιάν*.

391. **ἀλλά**: 'after a conditional clause expressed or implied, *ἀλλά* is often to be rendered 'at least': *Soph. fr.* 855 *εἰ σῶμα δοῦλον, ἀλλ' ὁ νοῦς ἐλεύθερος*: *El.* 411 *συγγένεσθέ γ' ἀλλὰ νῦν*, 'help me (if not before) now at least.' *Hadley Gr. Gr.* 1046. 2 a. Here the implied condition is 'if you will not accept me as a substitute for my daughter.'

395. **μηδὲ τόνδ' ὠφέλομεν**: although in this expression *οὐ* should logically be the negative employed, the phrase as a whole is felt to express a wish, and hence *μη* is used: cf. *Soph. Phil.* 969 *μήποτ' ὠφελον λιπεῖν | τὴν Σκύρον*: *Hadley Gr. Gr.* § 871 a.

τόνδ', sc. *θάνατον*, that of Polyxena.

397. Odysseus resents the use of the word *ἀνάγκη* by a slave, and its application to his own action. For the partic. *κεκτημένος* after a verb of knowing, cf. *Thompson Gr. Synt.* § 167: for the nomin. § 165. 2.

398. 'I will cling fast to her, I the ivy, she the oak.' For the double comparison cf. *Tro.* 147 *μάτηρ δ' ὥς τις πτανοῖς κλαγγὰν | ὄρνισιν ὅπως ἐξάρξω γῶ. ὅποια* = 'like': cf. *Soph. O. T.* 915 *οὐδ', ὅποι' ἀνὴρ | ἐννοῦς, τὰ καινὰ τοῖς πάλαι τεκμαίρεται*.

400. **ὥς**, i.e. *ἔσθι ὥς*: cf. *Med.* 609 *ὥς οὐ κρινοῦμαι τῶνδέ σοι τὰ πλεονα*: the construction 'expresses a point resolved and certain.' *Andr.* 587.

401. **ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐγὼ μὴν κ.τ.λ.**, 'nay, but I will not etc.' Cf. *Soph. O. C.* 28 *ἀλλ' ἐστὶ μὴν οἰκητός*, 'nay, inhabited it surely is.' *ἀλλὰ μὴν* is the recognized phrase to introduce the second horn of a dilemma.

403. **τοκεῦσιν**: the plural is used for the singular to give a more general meaning to the expression: in English we should say 'be indulgent to a parent.' In the next line too *κρατοῦσι* refers to Odysseus alone.

406. **γέροντα χρῶτα**: for *γέρων* as adj. cf. *Soph. O. C.* 1259 *γέρων πῖνος*: *Theocr.* vii. 17 *γέρων πέπλος*: *H. F.* 26 *γέρων λόγος*: *ἄρτος νεανίας* is found in *Ar. Lys.* 1207. So in Latin *anus charta*, *Cat.* lxviii. 46.

407. **δοχημονῆσαι**, 'be put to open shame': a prose word, not found in *Aesch.* or *Soph.* For *ἐκ=ὑπό*, cf. *supr.* 24 n.

408. *μὴ σὺ γε blandientis est*, says Valckenaer on Phoen. 535 'do not, I beg you.' Cf. Bacch. 951: Ion 1334: Ar. Lys. 189.

410. 'and let me lay my cheek on thine.' *προσβαλεῖν* after *δός*, which also governs *χέρα*.

411, 412. These two lines occur also in Alc. 208, 209.

416. lit. 'without the husband, without the marriage-song, which I ought to have obtained.' *ὦν* has for antecedent the nouns (understood) contained in the adjectives *ἀνυμφος ἀνυμέναιος*. For the genit. after adjectives compounded with *α*-privative, cf. Hadley Gr. Gr. § 753 c. Cf. Thuc. ii. 65. 5 *ἀδωρότατος χρημάτων* (of Pericles): Soph. O. C. 49 *μὴ μ' ἀτιμάσης, ὦν σε προστρέπω φράσαι*.

417. 'wretched art thou, my child, but all-wretched I.' *ἀθλία* is far the stronger word.

419. *ποῖ τελευτήσω βίον*; lit. 'whither shall I take my life and end it?' Cf. Soph. O. C. 476 *τὸ δ' ἐνθεν ποῖ τελευτήσαι με χρή*; 227 *ἀ δ' ὑπέσχεο ποῖ καταθήσεις*; 'to what fulfilment wilt thou bring thy promise?' Thuc. iii. 104. 5 *ἐτελεύτα ἐς τάδε τὰ ἔπη*, 'he proceeded to these lines, and then stopped.' In Prose *τελευτᾶν* is intrans. This line is in answer to the preceding one, in which Polyxena lamented her impending separation from her mother. Hecuba replies with a wish, expressed in question form, that she too might find death.

421. Euripides seems here to assign to Hecuba the credit which should belong to Priam only. In Il. xxiv. 495 Priam laments *πεντήκοντά μοι ἦσαν, ὅτ' ἤλυθον νῆες Ἀχαιῶν* | *έννεακαίδεκα μέν μοι λῆς ἐκ νηδύος* (one wife, Hecuba) *ἦσαν*, | *τοὺς δ' ἄλλους μοι ἔτικτον ἐνὶ μεγάροισι γυναῖκες*. Theocr. xv. 139 *οὐθ' Ἐκτωρ Ἐκάβας ὁ γεραίτατος εἵκατι παίδων*. Probably however Hecuba regards them all as having formed one family, of which she was the head. *ἄμμοροι τέκνων*, cf. Med. 1395 *στείχω, δισσῶν γ' ἄμμορος τέκνων*.

424. *στέρνα*. Homer never uses this word of a woman's breasts, though it is commonly found in that sense in Trag. *στέρνον* and *στήθος* (which latter word Homer uses of men and women) are wider terms than *μαστός*, which denotes a single breast (generally of a woman). Correctly rendered by Mr Way, 'O bosom, breasts that sweetly nurtured me.'

426. Cassandra was her last surviving sister. *ἐμοί*, ethic dat.: cf. Phoen. 618 *μητέρα, ἀλλὰ μοί συ χαῖρε*.

427. 'others fare well—not for thy mother this.' Way.

428. Cf. 328 n. *κάσις*, a poet. word, not used by Homer, except in the compound form *κασίγνητος*.

431. 'dead am I of sorrow, before dead indeed.'

432. She desires Odysseus to cover her head, that no one may see the traces of her tears.

433. ἐκτέτηκα, 'I am melted': καρδίαν, accus. of respect. ἐκτήκω trans.

435. As Odysseus prepares to muffle and lead her away, she calls upon the sun, whose light she is so soon to lose.

436. 'except for such time as I am going between this spot and the place of sacrifice at Achilles' pyre.' ξίφους καὶ πυρᾶς Ἀχιλλέως together form one idea, 'sacrifice at Achilles' pyre.' μεταξύ ξίφους κ.τ.λ.: for this use of μεταξύ, where one only of the two points, between which extension is indicated, is expressed, cf. Aesch. Cho. 63 τὰ δ' ἐν μεταίχμῳ (distance between) σκότου (supply καὶ φάους): Soph. O. C. 290 τὰ δὲ | μεταξύ τούτου (between the present time and an expected event) μηδαμῶς γίγνου κακός: Ar. Av. 187 ἐν μέσῳ ἀήρ ἐστι γῆς (καὶ οὐρανοῦ).

438. προλείπω, intr. 'I swoon.' Cf. Thuc. vii. 75. 3 (of the retreat of the Athenians from Syracuse) εἴ τῳ δὲ προλίποι ἡ ῥώμη καὶ τὸ σῶμα, οὐκ ἀνευ ὀλίγων ἐπιθειασμῶν καὶ οἰμωγῆς ὑπολείπόμενοι κ.τ.λ. These three broken lines are the mother's last utterances in the agony of separation from her child, culminating in the ἀπωλόμην, φίλαι which she cries, as she turns from the disappearing figure of Polyxena to seek the sympathy of her fellow-slaves. Then, in frenzied and impotent desire for vengeance, she curses the 'Spartan woman,' who is the source of all her sorrows. Nothing surely could be more artistic, more consistent with the vengeful Oriental character, which Euripides draws so clearly in the latter part of the play, than this last touch: and yet 'damnavit Hartungius, choro tribuit Hermannus.'

441. ὥς, 'thus,' i.e. led off, like Polyxena, to death. The use of ὥς for οὕτως is rare in Attic Greek except in certain phrases (καὶ ὥς, οὐδ' ὥς), but it occurs in Aesch. Ag. 930 εἰ πάντα δ' ὥς πράσσοιμ' ἄν, εὐθαρσῆς ἐγώ. Thuc. iii. 37 (speech of Cleon) ὥς οὖν χρὴ καὶ ἡμᾶς ποιούντας κ.τ.λ.

443. Ἑλένην...εἶλε. For the pun, cf. Aesch. Ag. 689 τίς ποτ' ὠνόμαζεν ὦδ' ἐς τὸ πᾶν ἐτητύμωσ...Ἑλέναν; ἐπεὶ πρεπόντως ἐλέναυς, ἑλανδρος, ἐλέπτολις, εἰ τῶν ἀβροτίμων προκαλυμμάτων ἐπλευσε κ.τ.λ. Eur. Tro. 890 Hecuba says αἰνῶ σε, Μενέλα', εἰ κτενεῖς δάμαρτα σήν. | ὀρῶν δὲ τήνδε φεῦγε, μή σ' ἔλη πόθω. | αἰρεῖ γὰρ ἀνδρῶν ὄμματ', ἐξαυρεῖ πόλεις | πῖμπρησι δ' οἴκους. The close parallel afforded by the lines in the Troades to this passage is noticeable. Plato was addicted to punning: cf. Symp. 198 c Γοργίου κεφαλὴν δεινοῦ λέγειν: Apol. 25 c

ἀλλὰ γάρ, ὦ Μέλητε, σαφῶς ἀποφαίνεται τὴν σαντοῦ ἀμέλειαν. At the conclusion of these lines Hecuba falls insensible.

444. The metre of this chorus is glyconic; the rhythm is founded on the trochee (—), but admits of very free construction.

The stage is now clear, save for the prostrate form of Hecuba, and the chorus mark the end of the first act by singing the first *stasimon*: at its conclusion the sacrifice is supposed to have been completed, and Talthybius arrives to give a description of the scene. They speculate in what Grecian land fate has fixed the place of their slavery, whether on the northern mainland, or one of the islands of the Aegean, or in Pallas' city of Athens: then with a brief lament the ode concludes. The parallel chorus, Tro. 197—234, should be carefully read with this one: there, as here, Talthybius appears at the finish of the ode, and announces to Hecuba among other things the sacrifice of Polyxena: εὐδαιμόνιζε παῖδα σὴν· ἔχει καλῶς. It must be borne in mind that the Hecuba is the earlier play by eight or ten years.

ποντιᾶς, this form of the femin. of πόντιος is found here and twice in Pindar.

446. θαὸς ἀκάτους: the adjective is not picturesque merely, for ἀκατοι or ἀκάτια were small fast-sailing boats, popular with pirates (cf. Thuc. iv. 67): holding, Strabo tells us, from 25 to 30 men: large merchant vessels sometimes carried an ἄκατος on board. They were at any rate small boats, and not particularly adapted, one would think, for the conveyance of a number of females. (They were not πελαγοδρομοῦσαι, Etym. M. s.v.)

οἶδμα λίμνας, 'swelling waste of waters.' The same expression occurs in a line of Sophocles (fr. 423), introduced by Aristophanes into the Aves (1337).

448. δουλόσυνος is ἄπαξ λεγόμενον. Cf. δεσπύσυνος supr. 99.

449. κτηθείς, cf. supr. 360: this passive aorist is rare, and does not occur elsewhere in Trag., though Thuc. (i. 123) uses it.

450. Δωρίδος αἶας. Eur. no doubt refers to the Dorian settlements in the Peloponnese, and is thereby guilty of an anachronism, as Dorians are only once mentioned in the Homeric poems (Od. xix. 177) and then as a tribe in Crete. Achaeans at that early time dwelt in what was destined to become the heritage of the then obscure tribe, whose home was north of the Corinthian gulf. (Doris proper had no sea-board.)

451. Φθιάδος. Achaia Phthiotis, the home of Achilles and the original nursery of the Hellenes: by Ἑλλάς Homer always understands this district: cf. Il. ii. 683, 4: ix. 395.

454. Ἀπιδανόν. It is probable that Eur. means the Enipeus, which, rising in Mt Othrys, flows northward through Achaia Phthiotis and the plain of Thessaly, and falls into the Peneus shortly after receiving the waters of the Apidanus, a tributary which runs parallel with it through most of Thessaly. The two streams are frequently confused. Cf. Bacch. 572 Λυδίαν (the river Lydias) τε τὸν τὰς εὐδαιμονίας | βροτοῖς ὀλβοδόταν, πατέρα τε, | τὸν ἔκλυον εὖιππον χώραν ὕδασι | καλλίστοισι λιπαίνειν. The plain of Thessaly was the richest pasture-land in Greece, and supported the flocks and herds, which formed the wealth of a powerful aristocracy, who, but for mutual jealousy, might have been a great influence in Greece: cf. Theocr. xvi. 36 πολλοὶ δὲ Σκοπάδαισιν ἐλαυνόμενοι ποτὶ σακοὺς | μὸσχοι σὺν κεραῇσιν ἐμυκήσαντο βόεσσι. The Scopadae of Krannon, like the Aleuadae of Larissa, were a powerful family of this haughty and luxurious aristocracy.

455. νάσων...ἐνθα (458), 'to that one of the islands, where' etc.

456. τάλαιναν, the accusatives follow πορεύσεις, l. 447.

The island of Delos, to which reference is made in these lines, was one of the holy places of Greece: for here Leto, pursued by the jealousy of Hera, found a resting-place, where she might give birth to Apollo and Artemis. The island, which, once floating, was fixed by Zeus for the reception of Leto, was little more than a rock, rising in Mt Cynthus to a height of 500 feet, and not more than 5 miles in circumference. It became the centre of the worship of Apollo, and there every fifth year from early times were celebrated the Delia, a festival at which the Ionians of the islands and the neighbouring coasts assembled to do honour to their θεὸς πατρῷος. After falling into desuetude, the Delia were restored by the Athenians in 426 B.C., and the island purified. (Thuc. v. 1 tells us that the completion of the purification consisted in the deportation of the inhabitants: this took place in 422 B.C.) At the time of the production of the Hecuba (425 B.C. probably), this revival would be fresh in men's memories, and suggested to Eur. no doubt the mention of the island in this place.

458. Tradition said that Leto, when giving birth to Apollo, supported herself by grasping a palm tree, which henceforth became sacred to her offspring. Cf. Hymn. ad Ap. 118: Theogn. 929 Φοῖβε ἀναξ, ὅτε μὲν σε θεὰ τέκε πόντια Δητῷ, | φοίνικος ῥαδινηῆς χερσὶν ἐφαψαμένη, κ.τ.λ. The Delians maintained in Cicero's time that the original palm tree was still to be seen. (Cic. de Legg. i. 1. 2.) Cf. Homer Od. vi. 162 where Odysseus likens Nausicaa to the young palm tree growing in Apollo's shrine in Delos. The palm tree was not found in Greece.

460. **Λατοῖ φίλα**, probably dative after *ἀνέσχε*, 'for the service of dear Leto': then *ἀγαλμα ὠδῖνος Δίας* is in apposition to *πτόρθους*, 'the pride of her Zeus-born son.' For *ὠδῖς* (properly 'birth-pangs') = child, cf. Aesch. Ag. 1418 *ἐθυσεν αὐτοῦ παῖδα, φιλότατην ἐμοί | ὠδῖνα*. A very parallel passage to this is I. T. 1097—1105, where *Λατοῦς ὠδῖνα φίλαν* occurs in connection with the palm, the olive and the bay: both reading and interpretation are doubtful, and the parallelism seems to prove little more than that mere verbal echoes from former plays often led Eur. to the repetition of a phrase in a different sense: cf. *infr.* 482 n.

463. The common tradition made Artemis twin-sister of Apollo. Many statues of Artemis have been discovered at Delos: nearly all are of the archaic type, completely draped, with the hair confined at the front by the *ἄμπυξ* (a metal headband, usually assigned to goddesses): the later type, while keeping the *ἄμπυξ*, usually discarded the long draperies, and added the quiver and arrows, realising the conception of Artemis the Huntress.

464. **τε** is wrongly placed: it should follow *χρυσέαν*.

466. The chief ornament of the Great Panathenaic festival, which was celebrated in August, every four years, was the saffron-coloured *πέπλος*, newly embroidered by maidens with a representation of the battle of the giants (cf. I. T. 224), which was carried sail-wise on a ship, supported on wheels, in a magnificent procession from the outer Ceramicus to the temple of Athene Polias. (Probably the ship was not introduced prominently till the 4th century.)

467. **καλλιδίφρου**: on the seated type of Athene statues, cf. Miss Harrison's *Mythology and Monuments of Ancient Athens*, p. 495.

469. **ζεύξομαι πώλους** means of course 'I shall represent in my embroidery yoked steeds.'

473. **ἀμφιπύρῳ**, cf. Hipp. 559 *βροντᾷ ἀμφιπύρῳ*. The thunderbolt is often represented in works of art with tongues of flame *above and below*; this would rightly be the meaning of *ἀμφίπυρος*, *ἀμφι-* meaning 'on both sides,' *περι-* 'on all sides.'

474. **κοιμίζει**, 'casteth into the sleep of death': cf. Hipp. 1387 *εἶθε με κοιμῖσειε τὸν δυσδαίμον' | Ἄιδου μέλαινα νύκτερός τ' ἀνάγκα*. Soph. Aj. 832.

478. **δορίκτητος Ἀργείων**, 'spear-won prize of the Greeks': the genit. is due to the idea of possession: still the absence of a preposition is harsh.

482. Eur. uses the word *θεράπνα* six times: I. A. 1499 *Μυκηναῖαι*

τ' ἐμαὶ θεράπναι: Bacch. 1043 θεράπνας τῆσδε Θηβαίας χθονός: H. F. 370 Πηλιάδες θεράπναι: Tro. 1070 τὰν καταλαμπομένην ζαθέαν θεράπναν (of a place): Tro. 211 μὴ γὰρ δὴ (ἔλθοιμεν) δῖναν γ' Εὐρώτα, τὰν ἐχθίσταν θεράπναν Ἑλένας, ἐνθ' ἀντάσω Μενέλα δούλα. Thus in each case it is to be translated 'dwelling,' 'homestead.' Θεράπνη or Θεράπναι was also a not uncommon place-name: the best known Θεράπνη was in the valley of the Eurotas in Sparta, and is made the subject of a play on words in the passage from the Troades (211, quoted above). The ode in which it occurs is almost identical with the present chorus of the Hecuba: and that the word is purposely chosen there is certain from the fact that the Spartan Therapne stood on Mt Menelaius, which derived its name from a temple of Menelaus, where he and Helen were buried. Eur. must have had this ode from the Hecuba in his mind, when he wrote the chorus in the Troades: it is curious too that Εὐρώπας θεράπναν here is echoed by Εὐρώτα...θεράπναν there, cf. 460 n.

483. ἀλλάξας, lit. 'having taken in exchange a dwelling in Europe.' Ἄϊδα θαλάμους is in apposition to θεράπναν.

484. δὴ ποτε, 'erstwhile': cf. Supp. 1130 σποδοῦ τε πλήθος ὀλίγον ἀντὶ σωμαίων | εὐδοκίμων δὴ ποτ' ἐν Μυκῆναις.

486. Cf. 443 n. Editors are at pains to explain that Hecuba is on her back, because the attendants so placed her, that she might recover from her swoon. They might also explain why the attendants failed at the same time to loosen her clothing: it is certainly unsuitable for a fainting person to be συγκεκλημένη ('tightly muffled') πέπλοις.

488. 'What shall I say, O Zeus? Whether that thou regardest men, or that idly to no purpose hast thou (with thy fellow-gods) gotten thee this so false repute, seeming to be a race of gods indeed?' I do not see sufficient reason for expelling line 490; the poet's mind passes quickly from the mention of one god to the thought of all, so that not σε but ὑμᾶς is subject to κεκτῆσθαι. The piling up of kindred words to produce a mass-effect (ἄλλως—μάτην—ψευδῇ) is characteristically Greek. δοκοῦντας is emphatic: 'seeming and seeming only': a bitter echo of δόξαν (489), 'false reputation.'

491. ἐπίσκοπεῖν, ἐπίσκοπος are used specially of tutelary gods. Solon 2. 3 (in Hiller's Auth. Lyr.) τοῖη γὰρ μεγάλυμος ἐπίσκοπος ὄβριμο-πάτρῃ | Παλλὰς Ἀθηναίη χεῖρας ὑπερθεῖν ἔχει. Pind. Ol. xiv. 4 Χάριτες Ὀρχομενοῦ, παλαιγόνων Μινυᾶν ἐπίσκοποι. Eur. I. T. 1414: Aesch. Eum. 517 ἐσθ' ὅπου τὸ δεινὸν εὖ | καὶ φρενῶν ἐπίσκοπον | δεῖ μένειν καθή-μενον.

493. μέγ' ὀλβίον, cf. Aesch. Prom. 647 ὦ μέγ' εὐδαιμον: the adver-

bial use with adjectives is Homeric. It is however found in Herod. and Xen. also: cf. Rutherford, *New Phryn.* p. 28.

494. ἀνέστηκεν, passive of ἀνίστημι, 'make people remove'; e.g. Thuc. ii. 27 ἀνέστησαν δὲ καὶ Αἰγινήτας ἐξ Αἰγίνης Ἀθηναῖοι. So Thuc. i. 12 ἐπεὶ καὶ μετὰ τὰ Τρωϊκὰ ἡ Ἑλλὰς ἐτι μετανίστατό τε καὶ κατφκίζετο, ὥστε μὴ ἡσυχάσασα αὐξηθῆναι... μόλις τε ἐν πολλῷ χρόνῳ ἡσυχάσασα ἡ Ἑλλὰς βεβαίως καὶ οὐκέτι ἀνισταμένη ἀποικίας ἐξέπεμψεν. Applied to a country it means 'depopulated.' So too ἀνάστατος, which is found in Poetry, though the verb is confined to Prose (except in this passage). ἀνάστατον δορὶ is found in Soph. Tr. 240.

498. αἰσχροῖ, 'vile.' περιπεσεῖν, common in all Greek = 'encounter' (evil).

499. μετάρσιον, proleptic, 'from the ground.'

501. τίς οὗτος κ.τ.λ. 'who art thou there, who' etc. Cf. Il. x. 82 τίς δ' οὗτος κατὰ νῆας ἀνὰ στρατὸν ἔρχεαι οἷος | νύκτα δὲ ὄρφναῖήν;

503. Talthybius in the Il. is Agamemnon's herald, i. 320: he was worshipped in Sparta after his death, and the hereditary heralds at Sparta were called Talthybiadae: cf. Herod. vii. 134. Δαναῖδων is used with special reference to his connection with the Argive prince Agamemnon.

504. πέμψαντος μέτα, 'having sent me for you': cf. Soph. Phil. 343 ἦλθόν με νηῖ ποικιλοστόλῳ μέτα: cf. infr. 509 μεταστειλὼν σε: 512.

505. Observe Hecuba's welcome to the messenger, as she thinks, of death.

506. δοκοῦν, acc. absol., cf. supr. 118 n.: lit. 'it being a resolution of the Greeks.' δόξαν would mean 'it having been resolved by': the present calls attention to the abiding nature of the decree. Cf. Thuc. iii. 38. 2 καὶ δῆλον ὅτι ἡ τῷ λέγειν πιστεύσας τὸ πάνυ δοκοῦν ἀνταποφῆναι ὥς οὐκ ἐγνωσται ἀγωνίσαιτ' ἂν κ.τ.λ.

507. ἐγκονῶμεν. Homer uses only the partic. pres. of this verb, in an adverbial sense = 'speedily': in other writers it is only found in imperative sentences.

511. οἶμοι, τί λέξεις; a Euripidean formula on the receipt of bad news: the use of the future implies that the speaker cannot at once realise what he hears: cf. infr. 712, 1124: Hipp. 353: Ion 1113: Med. 1310.

512. κακά, the sad news of her daughter's death.

514. τοῦπὶ σέ, *quod ad te attinet*.

515. πῶς καὶ νῦν ἐξεπράξατ'; 'how, tell me, did ye take her life?'

This seems to be the force of *καὶ interrogativis postpositum*: cf. *infr.* 1066: Alc. 834: Hipp. 92, 1171: Soph. Aj. 1290.

ἐκπράσσειν, lit. 'to finish': cf. διεργάζεσθαι, διαχρῆσθαι, Lat. *conficere*.

'How did ye slay her?—how?—with reverence meet,

Or with brute outrage, as men slay a foe?' Way.

518. 'once more, lady, thou wouldst have me renew the sad solace of tears.' Cf. Soph. O. C. 363 δις γὰρ οὐχὶ βούλομαι | πονοῦσά τ' ἀλγείν καὶ λέγουσ' αὐθις πάλιν.

519. λέγων, 'at the recital.'

520. Supply *ἔτεξα*.

523. χερὸς, for the genit. cf. Thompson Gr. Synt. § 97 B.

526. 'whose hands should curb the strugglings of thy Iamb.' Way. For μόσχος = child, cf. I. A. 1623: Andr. 712.

527. πλῆρες, *supr.* 522: for similar carelessness, cf. χεροῖν 526, χεροῖν 527, χεῖρὶ 528: τίθεται 655, τιθεμένα 656: μάθη 601, μαθὼν 602, μάτην 603: πρευμενῆς 538, πρύμνας 539, πρευμενοῦς 540 (the latter may be intentional). This preliminary libation would be wine, or a mixture of meal, honey and oil (πέλανος): cf. Aesch. Cho. 92, the χοαὶ sent by Clytaemnestra to appease the shade of Agamemnon.

531. Cf. I. A. 1563 στὰς δ' ἐν μέσῳ Ταλθύβιος, ᾧ τδδ' ἦν μέλον, | εὐφημίαν ἀνέειπε καὶ σιγὴν στρατῷ. The account of the sacrifice of Iphigeneia should be compared with this passage.

532. σίγα, the adverb: cf. Ar. Ach. 238 σίγα πᾶς (ἔστω). Eur. Phoen. 1224 κελεύσας σίγα κηρύξαι στρατῷ.

535. κηλητηρίους, cf. Alc. 359 ὥστ' ἡ κόρην Δήμητρος ἡ κείνης πόσιν | ὕμνοισι κηλήσαντά σ' ἐξ Ἄιδου λαβεῖν.

536. νεκρῶν ἀγωγούς, 'that bring up the departed.' Compare the account of the sacrifice offered by Odysseus in Od. xi. 35 on his descent to the lower world, ῥέε δ' αἶμα κελαιεφές· αἱ δ' ἀγέροντο | ψυχὰς ὑπ' ἐξ Ἑρέβους νεκύων κατατεθνηώτων. For the genit. cf. Tro. 1130 πολλῶν ἐμοὶ δακρύων ἀγωγός.

539. πρύμνας—πρευμενῆς: the paronomasia may be intentional: cf. *supr.* 443 n. Cf. too *infr.* 650 τὸν εὐροον Εὐρώταν.

χαλινωτήρια are the ropes that 'bridle' the ship's course.

541. δὸς ἡμῖν...τυχόντας, a common irregularity: τυχοῦσι would be expected: cf. Aesch. Cho. 140 αὐτῇ τέ μοι δὸς σωφρονεστέραν πολὺ | μητρὸς γενέσθαι χεῖρά τ' εὐσεβεστέραν.

νόστον, 'home-coming': one of the later Epic poems was the Νόστοι, or the narrative of the returns of the heroes from Troy.

543. ἀμφίχρυσον, 'inlaid with gold on both sides': cf. *supr.* 474 n.

κώπης, cf. supr. 523 n. Such swords have been found at Mycenae.

546. ἐφράσθη, 'observed.' This middle use of the pass. aorist is found in Homer (Od. xix. 485 etc.) and Herod. (i. 84 sub fin., vii. 46). Both Soph. and Aesch. use the perf. pass. as middle.

ἐσήμηνεν λόγον, cf. supr. 217 σημανῶν ἔπος.

550. cf. supr. 367.

551. 'I have a queenly pride that brooks not the name of slave among the dead.' 'She will hold in Hades the same position, servile or free, that she held at the moment of her death.' Paley.

552. δούλη κεκλήσθαι, cf. supr. 480 κέκλημαι δούλα.

553. ἐπερρόθησαν, 'shouted approval': cf. Phoen. 1238 πάντες δ' ἐπερρόθησαν Ἀργεῖοι τάδε | Κάδμου τε λαός, ὡς δίκαι' ἡγούμενοι. Or. 901.

558. It is simpler to take ἐξ ἄκρας ἐπωμίδος as referring to the top of the shoulder, than to one of the many fashions of wearing the chiton, which prevailed among Greek women: cf. Becker's Charicles, p. 425 (Eng. tr.).

560. ὡς ἀγάλματος κάλλιστα. It is significant as showing the perfection reached in the plastic arts, that ἀγαλμα is frequently used to denote extraordinary or divine beauty: cf. Hipp. 631 γέγηθε κόσμον προστιθεῖς ἀγάλματι | καλὸν κακίστῳ. Plat. Charm. 154 C πάντες ὥσπερ ἀγαλμα ἐθεῶντο αὐτόν. Phaedr. 251 A θύοι ἂν ὡς ἀγάλματι καὶ θεῷ τοῖς παιδικοῖς. Eur. fr. 284. 10 λαμπροὶ δ' ἐν ἥβῃ καὶ πόλεως ἀγάλματα | φοιτῶσ'.

ἔδειξε, 'displayed': the first meaning of δεικνυμι; cf. Tro. 801 δχθοῖς ἱεροῖς, ἦν' ἐλαίας | πρῶτον ἔδειξε κλάδον γλαυκᾶς Ἀθᾶνα.

562. τλημονέστατον, 'heroic.'

566. οἴκτῳ κόρης, 'in pity for the maiden': cf. 519 σῆς παιδὸς οἴκτῳ: the genitive is objective, cf. Thompson Gr. Synt. § 98.

οὐ θέλων τε καὶ θέλων: cf. El. 1230 (Electra addressing the corpse of Clytaemnestra) ἰδοῦ, φίλαν τε κοῦ φίλαν φάρεά σέ γ' ἀμφιβάλλομεν: Phoen. 357 μῆτερ, φρονῶν εὖ κοῦ φρονῶν ἀφικόμεν | ἐχθροὺς ἐς ἄνδρας.

568. κρουνός is a 'well-head': 'and the welling blood leapt forth': cf. Rhesus 790 θερμὸς δὲ κρουνὸς δεσπότην παρὰ σφαγαῖς | βάλλει με δυσσθητοῦντος αἵματος νέου, where the force of κρουνός, the strong gush of blood, is heightened by the use of βάλλει and νέου: for ἐχώρουν, cf. Med. 1174 ἀνωλόλυξε, πρὶν γ' ὀρᾷ διὰ στόμα | χωροῦντα λευκὸν ἀφρόν.

569. This verse is quoted by Pliny Ep. iv. 11. 9, in his account of the judicial murder by Domitian of the Vestal, Cornelia. Paley quotes an imitation from Ovid Fasti ii. 833 *tum quoque iam moriens ne non*

procumbat honeste | respicit: haec etiam cura cadentis erat. With this passage should certainly be compared Ovid's version of it, *Met.* xiii. 449—480.

570. For the double accus. after κρύπτειν, cf. Thompson *Gr. Synt.* § 88.

572. 'Each Argive 'gan his task—no man the same.' Way.

573. ἐκ χερῶν, supply *λέντες*.

574. φύλλοις ἔβαλλον: her courage was rewarded with the same honours as were bestowed on victors in the games: cf. *Pind. Pyth.* ix. 131 ἐνθ' Ἀλεξίδαμος, ἐπεὶ φύγε λαιψήρην δρόμον, | παρθένον κεδνὰν χερὶ χειρὸς ἑλῶν | ἄγεν ἱππευτῶν Νομάδων δι' ὄμιλον. πολλὰ μὲν κείνοι δίκον (cast) | φύλλ' ἐπὶ καὶ στεφάνους.

576. Cf. *Alc.* 704 εἰ δ' ἡμᾶς κακῶς | ἐρεῖς, ἀκούσει πολλὰ κού ψευδῆ κακά. *Ar. Thesm.* 385 βαρέως φέρω...ὀρῶσ' ἡμᾶς ὑπὸ | Εὐριπίδου τοῦ τῆς λαχανοπωλητρίας | καὶ πολλὰ καὶ παντοῦ' ἀκουούσας κακά. *Soph. Phil.* 608 ὁ πάντ' ἀκούων αἰσχροὶ καὶ λωβήτ' ἔπη | δόλιος Ὀδυσσεύς. More frequently ἀκούω and κλύω are used either with adverbs (κακῶς ἄκ. 'to have an ill reputation') or the nomin. of adjectives: they serve as the passive of λέγειν = to call a person such and such a thing: so *audire*, e.g. *Hor. Ep.* i. 16. 17 *tu recte vivis, si curas esse quod audis.* (Cf. *Milton Areop.* p. 24 (ed. Hales) 21 'Next what more nationall corruption, for which England hears ill abroad, than household gluttony?' Ben Jonson in his dedication of the *Fox* to those 'most equal sisters, the two famous universities' says 'hence is it, that I now render myself grateful, and am studious to justify the bounty of your act: to which, though your mere authority were satisfying, yet it being an age wherein poetry and the professors of it hear so ill on all sides, there will be a reason be looked for in the subject.')

578. For the custom of casting garments and offerings of all kinds on funeral pyres, cf. *Lucian de Luctu* 14 πόσοι γὰρ καὶ ἵππους καὶ παλλακίδας, οἱ δὲ καὶ οἰνοχόους ἐπικατέσφαξαν καὶ ἐσθῆτα καὶ τὸν ἄλλον κόσμον συγκατέφλεξαν ἢ συγκατῶρυναν;

579. τῇ περίσσει' εὐκαρδίῳ, cf. *supr.* 493 n.

583. ἐπέξεσε, cf. *I. T.* 987 δεινὴ τις ὀργὴ δαιμόνων ἐπέξεσε. 'Herein (τόδε) by fate some heaven-sent bane hath burst seething upon the children of Priam and my country.'

585. Hecuba half-personifies her various troubles: they all crowd round her, claiming her attention and aid, nor does she know to which she should turn first: if she embrace the cause of one, another (τόδε) straightway will not suffer his claims to be postponed, while if she listen

to the second, there is always a third, inheritor of woe from woe, to summon her away in turn by his cries for help (*παρακαλεῖ*).

588. *διάδοχος κακῶν κακοῖς*. The poet is not strictly logical: first he regards the different Woes as urging their separate claims, to the exclusion of others, on Hecuba; then he proceeds to speak of one of them as receiving in his turn a burden of misery from another. Hecuba would herself more properly be styled *διάδοχος κακῶν κακοῖς*: we should then read *διάδοχον*: for the phrase, cf. Supp. 71 *ἀγὼν δὲ ἄλλος ἐρχεται γῶν γόοις διάδοχος*. The usual construction of *διάδοχος* is genit. of thing received and dat. of the person received from: cf. the dat. after *δέχομαι*, e.g. Il. ii. 186 *δέξατό οἱ* ('from him') *σκῆπτρον*, and many instances quoted by Porson on supr. 535 (where he reads *δέξαι χόος μοι*).

591. 'excess of grieving the tidings of thy noble bearing hath taken from me.' This line serves as an apology for the following philosophical reflections, which might seem out of place at a time of such distress. Similar apologies are found in Hipp. 252: Med. 119.

592. *δαινόν*, cf. supr. 379 n.: the context there is very similar to this. *γῆ*, 'soil.' 'Strange,' says Hecuba, 'that poor land may under some conditions bring forth good fruit, and good land evil fruit: but a good man's works are always good, and an evil man's evil. What is the reason? Is it heredity, or early nurture?' Euripides' answer to the claims of the former is negative: El. 369 *ἤδη γὰρ εἶδον παῖδα γενναίου πατρὸς | τὸ μὴδὲν* (worthless) *ὄντα, χρηστὰ δ' ἐκ κακῶν τέκνα*. In Supp. 911 he inclines to give the credit to early education; *τὸ γὰρ τραφῆναι μὴ κακῶς αἰδῶ φέρει | αἰσχύνεται δὲ τὰ γὰρ ἀσκήσας ἀνὴρ | κακὸς γενέσθαι πᾶς τις ἢ δ' εὐανδρία | διδακτός, εἴπερ καὶ βρέφος διδάσκεται | λέγειν ἀκούειν θ' ὧν μάθησιν οὐκ ἔχει*. Eur. does not go as far as his contemporary Socrates, and assert that no one is vicious, except through ignorance, and that any one knowing good will ensue it (cf. Hipp. 380 *τὰ χρήστ' ἐπιστάμεσθα καὶ γιγνώσκομεν, | οὐκ ἐκπονοῦμεν δέ*), but still attaches great weight to the knowledge of good as a means to the identification of evil, infr. 601 *τοῦτο* (*ἐσθλὸν*) *δ' ἦν τις εὖ μάθη | οἶδεν τὸ γ' αἰσχρόν, κανόνι τοῦ καλοῦ μαθών*. It is true that Euripides' expressions are not always quite consistent, but we must remember that to dogmatize was not his failing, and, like Socrates, he propounds many a question, and argues on many a theme, yet leaves the question unanswered and the theme a sketch.

597. *οὐδέ*. For this use of *οὐ* after *εἰ* (592) consult Shilleto's note on Thuc. i. 121. 7. His rule is, that in a bi-membered sentence, like the present, when in the second clause the indicative is used, the

negative is οὐ: from this rule however there are many exceptions.

599. τροφαί, for the plural cf. supr. 82 n.

600. ἔχει, cf. supr. 353 n. Lit. 'involves a teaching of virtue.' δίδαξις seems ἀπ. λεγ.

603. ἐτόξευσεν, cf. Aesch. Supp. 446 καὶ γλῶσσα τοξεύσασα μὴ τὰ καίρια. Eur. Supp. 456 καὶ ταῦτα μὲν δὴ πρὸς τὰδ' ἐξηκόντισα. μὲν δὴ dismisses the philosophical reflections.

605. θιγγάνειν, sc. τῆς παιδός: μοι, ethic dative: cf. infr. 728.

606. τοι, 'thou knowest': cf. supr. 228 n.

607. ναυτική τ' ἀναρχία, cf. I. A. 913 ἀφίγμαι δ', ὥσπερ εἰσορᾶς, γυνή | ναυτικὸν στράτευμ' ἀναρχὸν κἀπὶ τοῖς κακοῖς θρασύ, | χρήσιμον δ' ὅταν θέλωσιν. Eur. probably had in view the frequent disorders of Piraeus. It was and remains a commonplace that water-side population is hard to manage.

608. κρείσσων πυρός, cf. Andr. 271 ἂ δ' ἔστ' ἐχίδνης καὶ πυρὸς περαιτέρω, | οὐδεὶς γυναικὸς φάρμακ' ἐξεύρηκέ πω | κακῆς. κακός, 'poor creature.'

610. ποντίας ἁλός, partitive genitive after βάψας' ἐνεγκε, which = 'draw and bring.'

612. It may well be that Hecuba refers here to the union in death of Achilles and Polyxena: in this shadowy wedlock she could not be regarded as strictly wife or strictly maid: and the ceremonial bath, which took place before marriage (at Athens the water for the bath was fetched from Callirrhoe, Thuc. ii. 15), assumes the form of the last washing of the corpse before burial.

613. προθῶμαι, 'lay out': cf. Alc. 664 (παῖδας, οἱ) περιστελοῦσι καὶ προθήσονται νεκρόν. Ph. 1319.

614. ὥς δ' ἔχω...κόσμον τ' ἀγείρασ', i.e. with my own resources, so far as they go, and with whatever contributions my fellow-captives may be able to make. τί γὰρ πάθω; the exact meaning in this passage is somewhat difficult to determine: 'what else can I do?' i.e. except ὥς ἔχω, seems to me to represent the sense. The strict meaning of the phrase is 'what is to happen to me?' 'What is to happen to me, if I do not do so?' Valckenaer says the formula is *eorum, quos invitos natura vel fatum vel quaecunque tandem cogit vix superanda necessitas* (ad Phoen. 902). It is found in Homer Il. xi. 404 where Odysseus in a dilemma says ὦ μοι ἐγώ, τί πάθω; Paley remarks that the subj. is not deliberative, but has the future sense common in epic usage: cf. Monro Hom. Gr. § 274: Tro. 792: Supp. 257.

616. τῶνδε, deictic: cf. supr. 59 n.

618. κλέμμα τῶν αὐτῆς δόμων. Notice the bitter irony of this phrase: 'aught she hath pilfered from her home.'

619. ὦ σχήματ' οἴκων, 'O vision of home, once happy home.' Or it may be that σχῆμα implies something striking and impressive to the eye.

620. ὦ πλείστ' ἔχων κ.τ.λ. To take ὦ πλ. ἔχων κάλλιστα τε together, punctuating at τε, and translating 'thou who hadst very many and very beautiful things,' seems unsatisfactory: Porson's κάλλιστα τ' εὐτεκνώτατε, where κάλλιστα is adverbial (cf. supr. 579 n.), leaves ὦ πλείστ' ἔχων particularly bare and feeble: I see no difficulty in understanding from εὐτεκνώτατε in this line and τέκνων in the next τέκνα as object of ἔχων: reference to the number and beauty of Priam's children is frequent and here apposite: cf. supr. 280, 421 n. Further the pathos of the reference to herself in the next line is heightened if we supply πλείστων καλλίστων τε with τέκνων.

622. εἰς τὸ μηδὲν ἦκομεν, 'have come to nought': cf. Herod. i. 32. 1 ἡ ἡμετέρη εὐδαιμονία ἀπέρριπται εἰς τὸ μηδέν. Soph. El. 1000 δαίμων δὲ τοῖς μὲν εὐτυχῆς καθ' ἡμέραν, | ἡμῖν δ' ἀπορρεῖ καπὶ μηδὲν ἔρχεται.

φρονήματος τοῦ πρὶν στ., 'shorn of our former pride.'

623. στερέντες: this aorist is found only in Poetry.

δῆτα, used in a scornful sense: it is more frequently found in interrogative sentences. εἴτα also is *indignantis*.

626. τὰ, on the article used as a demonstrative, cf. Thompson Gr. Synt. § 36: Soph. O. C. 742 πᾶς σε Καδμείων λεῶς | καλεῖ δικαίως, ἐκ δὲ τῶν μάλιστ' ἐγώ, where Jebb points out that usually, when the article is used in this way, it stands first in the sentence.

ἄλλως, 'mere,' cf. supr. 489: Tro. 476 οὐκ ἀριθμὸν ἄλλως ἀλλ' ὑπερτάτους Φρυγῶν. Fr. 362 (Erechtheus). 27 ἀλλ' ἐμοίγ' ἔστω τέκνα | ἄ καὶ μάχοιτο καὶ μετ' ἀνδράσιν πρέποι, | μὴ σχήματ' ἄλλως ἐν πόλει πεφυκότα.

628. Cf. Ennius in Cic. de fin. ii. 13 *nimium boni est, cui nil mali est*.

629. This short choral interlude, performed while Hecuba is absent, collecting the ornaments mentioned in 615, is mainly glyconic (cf. supr. 444 n.): it marks a break in the action, as the news of Polydorus' death, which arrives at its conclusion, supplies a fresh theme for the remainder of the play. The chorus trace the origin of their calamities in the fatal judgment of Paris. The ode in Androm. 274—308 on the same subject should be compared.

χρῆν, imperfect: cf. supr. 260 n. The force of the tense is, 'that was the moment when my present misfortunes became inevitable.'

631. Cf. Med. 3 (εἴθ' ὦφελε) μηδ' ἐν νάπαισι Πηλίου πεσεῖν ποτε | τμηθεῖσα πύκη, μηδ' ἐρετμῶσαι χέρας | ἀνδρῶν ἀριστέων κ.τ.λ. Hel. 229 φεῦ φεῦ, τίς ἦ Φρυγῶν | ἦ τίς Ἑλλαντίας ἀπὸ χθονὸς | ἔτεμε τὰν δακρυνέουσαν Ἴλιφ | πεύκαν; ἐνθεν ὀλόμενον | σκάφος συναρμόσας | ὁ Πριαμίδης ἐπλευσε βαρβάρφ πλατὰ | τὰν ἐμὰν ἐφ' ἐστίαν.

634. τὰν = ἄν.

638. πόνων ἀνάγκαι κρείσσονες, 'constraint of slavery more torturing than mere suffering.' ἀνάγκαι, cf. supr. 82 n.

640. 'On all from the folly of one (Paris) hath come a curse, a curse of destruction on the land of Simois, and ruin from stranger-hands.'

644. Lit. 'the strife, which a herdsman on Ida set himself to determine (κρίνει) between the three goddesses, hath been determined finally (aorist, ἐκρίθη), hath resulted, in ruin and bloodshed.' In ἐκρίθη we see the sense of the word as used by Hippocrates to denote the 'crisis' of a disease.

645. ἄν παῖδας κρίνει, for the double accus., one accus. being cognate, cf. Plat. Apol. 19 B Μέλητός με ἐγράψατο τὴν γραφὴν ταύτην. Hadley Gr. Gr. § 725.

646. ἀνὴρ βούτας, cf. Andr. 280 σταθμοὺς ἐπι βούτα: for βούτης as adj., cf. Hipp. 537 βούταν φόνον: Tro. 490 γραῦς γυνή: Aesch. Cho. 805 γέρων φόνος: Lat. *anus charta*. See 406 n. The βούτης was of course Paris, ὁ τὰς θεὰς κρίνας (I. A. 71). There seems to be a tinge of contempt in the use of the word ἀνὴρ here and infr. 682.

650. τις, 'many a one': cf. supr. 270 n.

ἀμφί, 'by the banks of.' εἴροον Εὐρώταν, cf. supr. 539 n.

655. τίθεται χέρα, meiosis: cf. supr. 270 n. Mr Way translates, 'and her cheeks with woe-furrows are gory | and her fingers are red.'

656. τιθεμένα. This use of τιθέναι = ποιεῖν is Ionic, but found sometimes in Attic poets: cf. Cobet V. L. p. 302. δίαιμον, 'bloody': only here and in Hippocrates.

658. The ἀρχαία λάτρης, despatched by Hecuba (l. 609) for water, returns bringing with her the corpse of Polydorus, which she has discovered as foretold, supr. 47 sq. It is covered with a cloth, which is thrown back at l. 679. παναθλία. To an ear so sensitive to suggestions of sound as Euripides', there would be a sad play on the word παναθλία (connected of course with ἀθλος, 'contest') and νικῶσα 659, στέφανον 660, κηρύγματα ('proclamation of victor') 662.

659. θῆλυν, this form of the feminine is found frequently in Poetry from Homer onwards.

661. *τάλαινα σῆς κ. β.*, lit. 'wretched by reason of thy ill-omened cry': cf. for the genit. Thompson Gr. Syut. § 101, n. 1.

662. *εὔδει*, 'is still': cf. Il. v. 524 *ὄφρ' εὐδῃσι μένος Βορέας*. Solon 2. 19 (Hiller) *πῶλεμον εὐδοντ' ἐπεγείρει*. So *σιγᾶν*, Theocr. ii. 38 (of the jealous Simaetha) *ἤνιδε σιγᾷ μὲν πόντος, σιγῶντι δ' ἀῆται· | ἃ δ' ἐμὰ οὐ σιγᾷ στέρνων ἐντοσθεν ἀνία*.

663. *τόδ' ἄλγος*, 'this weight of woe,' pointing to Polydorus' body.

665. *καὶ μὴν* introduces the fresh arrival, *supr.* 216 n. *περῶσα ὑπὲρ δόμων*, 'passing out of the house': 'through and beyond,' i.e. 'out of,' seems the sense of *ὑπέρ* here.

668. *οὐκέτ' εἰ βλέπουσα φῶς*, 'though alive, art dead': i.e. dead in the sense of having lost all which gives life a value.

670. Hecuba imagines that she refers to the death of Polyxena. The repetition of similar sounds in *εἰπας εἰδόσιν δ' ὠνείδισας* is characteristic of Euripides, cf. *supr.* 527 n.

εἰδόσιν, cf. *supr.* 237 n. 'No news this: 'tis but taunting me who knew.' Way.

673. *σπουδὴν ἔχειν* generally = *σπουδάζειν*, 'to be in earnest': here it must either = 'receive attention,' or (cf. *supr.* 353 n.) 'involve, cause exertion.'

674. This couplet is spoken half-aside, but Hecuba hears enough to learn that the body is that of some fresh victim.

675. *ἄπτεται*, 'grasps.'

676. *βακχεῖον*, 'inspired': for Cassandra, cf. *supr.* 87 n.

678. 'She liveth whose name thou shriekest aloud, but the dead man at thy feet thou mournest not.' *λάσκειν* of agitated or rapid speech: an entirely poet. word, used chiefly of animals or things by Homer.

679. *γυμνωθὲν*, at this word the attendant draws aside the covering and displays to the horror-stricken mother the features of her son.

682. *Θρηξ ἀνὴρ*, so *supr.* 646 *ἀνὴρ βούτας*.

684. *ὦ τέκνον τέκνον κ.τ.λ.* This *κόμμος* or lament, sung by one of the characters of the play and the chorus alternately (*θρηγος κοινος χοροῦ καὶ ἀπὸ σκηνης*, Arist. Poet. 12. 3), is partly iambic and partly dochmiac. The dochmiac rhythm is used by the Tragedians to express wild excitement; strictly its construction is a bacchius (— —) followed by an iambus (— —), but very great license is permitted: it seems probable that the nature of the metre suggested to the poet the use of the word *βακχεῖον*, l. 686; *νόμος βακχεῖος* would then mean a wild strain in the frenzied manner of the votaries of Bacchus: it is observable

also that the vintage songs frequently were dirges, having for their subject the premature death of a youth (e.g. αἶλιος, sung by a boy to the vintagers, Il. xviii. 570 τοῖσιν δ' ἐν μέσσοισι πάϊς φόρμυγγι λιγείῃ | ἱμερόεν κιθάριζε, λίνον δ' ὑπὸ καλὸν ἀειδεν | λεπταλέῃ φωνῇ), thus typifying the departing summer: Hecuba's lament over her dead son, cut off before manhood, might appropriately be compared to one of these ancient and well-known dirges, nor is it inconceivable that ὦ τέκνον τέκνον may actually have been the opening of some such funeral-song.

685. **κατάρχομαι**, 'I begin': usually of making a due commencement of a sacrifice: cf. Od. iii. 444 γέρων δ' ἱππηλάτα Νέστωρ | χέρνιβά τ' οὔλοχύτας (meal) τε κατήρχετο, πολλὰ δ' Ἀθήνη | εἶχετ': Eur. I. T. 40 κατάρχομαι μὲν (perform preliminary rites), σφάγια δ' (actual sacrifice) ἄλλοισιν μέλει. The genit. is regularly found with it, but cf. Or. 960 κατάρχομαι στεναγμόν, and Homer quoted above.

686. **ἐξ ἀλάστορος** should be connected with κακῶν, 'ills sent by some avenging power': cf. Soph. Tr. 1235 τίς ταῦτ' ἄν, ὅστις μὴ ἔξ ἀλαστόρων νοσοῖ, | ἔλοιτο; Eurip. very frequently uses the word ἀλάστωρ, and always in the sense of a malignant power, exacting vengeance to the uttermost for a man's trespasses either on himself or his family: cf. *infr.* 949.

687. **ἄρτιμαθής** (ἀπ. λεγ.), 'grasping but now my woes,' cf. Alc. 940 λυπρὸν διάξω βλοστον· ἄρτι μανθάνω: for the genit. κακῶν cf. Thompson Gr. Synt. § 112. She had had *forebodings* of ill for Polydorus, *supr.* 73 sq.

688. 'Ah then, thou dost recognize the working of thy son's curse?' **ἐγnows** is aor. of instantaneous action. I am inclined to think that this is the better rendering: the son is of course Paris, with whose original transgression, as the source of all subsequent calamity, the chorus have just dealt, *supr.* 629 sq., and the mention of κακὰ ἐξ ἀλάστορος, *supr.* 686, seems also to favour this version: further, the meaning of ἀτη as an active working curse is, by this rendering, preserved. It may be of course that the question is prompted by Hecuba's use of the word ἀρτιμαθής. 'Didst thou then know of thy son's (Polydorus') death?' γάρ = γ' ἄρ', 'ah then.'

692. **ἐπιωχῆσαι** probably means 'prevent me' from grieving. 'No tearless day, no day without a sigh, shall ever come to rid me of my grieving.'

696. **κεῖσαι**, 'art thou lying dead?'

698. **νιν**, for the accus. with κυρεῖν, cf. Aesch. Theb. 699 βλον εὔ

κυρήσας. πέσσημα, 'a fallen victim': cf. Andr. 652 οὐ πέσσηματα | πλεῖσθ' Ἑλλάδος πέπτωκε δοριπετῇ νεκρῶν. πτώμα is usual in this sense.

700. ἐν ψαμάθῳ λευρᾷ should be taken with ἐκβλητον (ἢ πέσσημα φ. δ. is parenthetical); a body cast up by the sea would be found on the smooth sand, the part of the shore covered at high water.

701. πελάγιος is used of the open sea: hence πελ. κλύδων ἐξήνεγκε implies that the body has drifted in from some distance.

702. ἔμαθον, 'I interpreted aright': for the dream cf. supr. 70 sq.

704. οὐ με παρέβα φ. μελ., these words are parenthetical, as ἄν in the next line refers back to ὄψιν. παρέβα, 'did not escape me': Hecuba is thinking of the gloomy interpretation she gave of the dream, supr. 79 sq. μελανόπτερον is an echo of the μελανοπτερύγων of that passage (l. 71).

706. ἀμφί σ' οὐκέτ' ὄντα, 'concerning thee, who even then wast dead.'

709. γάρ (as above 688) in interrogative sentences often expresses surprise. Hadley Gr. Gr. § 1050, 4 b. 'Does thy knowledge of dream-lore enable thee to tell?'

710. ἱππότας, cf. supr. 9 n. A poet. word, for which ἱππεύς is found in Prose.

711. ὕνα, 'with whom,' lit. 'where.'

712. τί λέξεις; cf. supr. 511 n.

714. The sanctity of the ties of hospitality, one of the most pleasing traits of the heroic age, continued to be regarded in Greece long after the dangers of travel and absence of public accommodation, which in early civilizations led to the extraordinary value attached to the institution of hospitality, had been remedied to a large extent by the construction of good roads and the establishment of inns: compare the conduct of Miltiades (Herod. vi. 35) towards the Dolonchian envoys, whom once when sitting at his front door, he saw ἐσθῆτα ἔχοντας οὐκ ἐγχωρῆν in the streets of Athens: προσεβόσατο, καί σφι προσελθοῦσι ἐπηγγέλατο καταγωγήν καὶ ξείνια. To this behaviour he owed his kingdom in the Chersonese. Thucydides too (ii. 13) tells us of the ξείνια existing between Pericles and Archidamos the Spartan, which led Pericles to fear that Archidamos would, while ravaging the property of other Athenians, spare that of his friend, and to his public declaration δι' Ἀρχίδαμος μὲν οἱ ξένος εἴη, οὐ μέντοι ἐπὶ κακῷ γε τῆς πόλεως γένοιτο, and that if his property should be excepted from the general devastation, ἀφίησιν αὐτὰ δημόσια εἶναι. Crito too offered Socrates a safe retreat in Thessaly, εἰσὶν ἐμοὶ ἐκεῖ ξένοι, οἳ σε περὶ πολλοῦ ποιήσονται καὶ

ἀσφάλειάν σοι παρέξονται. To violate hospitality was regarded as a heinous offence against both gods and men (οὐχ ὅσια οὐδ' ἀνεκτά, 715), and was visited by the wrath of Zeus the protector of strangers and suppliants: cf. *supr.* 345 n.

715. ποῦ δίκαια ξένων; 'where is the retributive justice, which an injured guest may invoke?' ξένων is possessive genitive: the position of the words immediately following οὐδ' ἀνεκτά makes this the more probable sense. It would be possible to translate 'where (i.e. in the doings of Polymestor) do we find the rightful custom of hosts?' (It should be remembered that δίκη is right as based upon custom.)

716. κατάραι' ἀνδρῶν, cf. *supr.* 192 n. The sight of wounds on the body of her son rouses a fresh paroxysm of wrath and grief. To the Greeks, who revered above other races the beauty of the human form, the infliction of disfiguring wounds was especially painful. Cf. Hipp. 1376 for διεμοιράσω, 'didst rend.'

722. ἔθηκεν, cf. *supr.* 656 n.; 'whoever among deities it be, that presseth so grievously upon thee.' The indef. relat. (ὅστις) is not used when the antecedent is definite: when the antecedent seems to be of this nature, an indefinite idea is really connected with it. Hadley Gr. Gr. § 699 a.

724. ἀλλ'...γάρ, 'with γάρ a remark is sometimes inserted parenthetically, which introduces the principal sentence *following*, and serves to explain what is said in it.' *Madv. Gr. Syut.* § 196 b. Frequently however it is best to explain ἀλλὰ γάρ as = ἀλλά γ' ἄρα, 'but then': cf. Plat. Apol. 20 C ἐγὼ γοῦν καὶ αὐτὸς ἐκαλλυνόμην τε καὶ ἡβρυνόμην ἂν εἰ ἠπιστάμην ταῦτα. ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ ἐπίσταμαι, 'but then I don't know.' Prot. 336 A.

δέμας Ἀγαμέμνωνος, cf. I. A. 417 μήτηρ δ' ὁμαρτεῖ, σῆς Κλυταιμνήστρας δέμας: Or. 107 τί δ' οὐχὶ θυγατρὸς Ἑρμῖονος πέμπεις δέμας; I. T. 1439 δεῦρ' ἦλθ' Ὀρέστης...ἀδελφῆς Ἀργος εἰσπόμεψων δέμας. The Homeric distinction, δέμας of the living, σῶμα of the dead body, does not hold in Attic Greek: cf. *infr.* 735.

727. ἐφ' οἷσπερ κ.τ.λ. = ἐπὶ τούτοις, αἱ κ.τ.λ. 'under those conditions, which Talthybius reported to me, namely that no one of the Greeks' etc.: cf. *supr.* 605 sq.

731. τὰ κεῖθεν = τὰ ἐκεῖ: cf. Soph. O. C. 505 τοῦ κεῖθεν ἄλσους, 'the farther side of the grove.' Aesch. Theb. 40 σαφῆ τὰ κεῖθεν φέρω: the idea of the facts, or rather the account of them, being brought from the place of occurrence to the place of recital, probably accounts for this use.

732. 'If to aught of this we may apply the word *well* done.'

734. οὐ—'Αργεῖον go closely together: 'his garb tells me he is no Greek.'

736. Hecuba does not address Agamemnon directly till l. 752: meanwhile, her back turned to the king, she debates with herself, whether she shall appeal to Agamemnon for assistance in her scheme of vengeance, finally deciding to throw herself on his clemency. δούστηνε, she addresses herself: then as though she had said δούστηνε σύ, she continues ἐμαυτὴν λέγω λέγουσα σέ (where in English we should say, 'by the word 'thou' I mean myself').

737. προσπέσω, delib. subj.; Hadley Gr. Gr. § 866. 3: for the accus. after προσπέσω, cf. Aesch. Theb. 95 πότερα δῆτ' ἐγὼ προσπέσω βρέτη τίμα δαιμόνων; Many verbs, which in a simple form are intrans., when compounded acquire a transitive meaning, and therewith a transitive construction: cf. Soph. Aj. 82 φρονούντα γάρ νιν οὐκ ἂν ἐξέστην δκνῶ, where ἐκστήναι has acquired the transit. force of 'shun.' Herod. v. 103 ἐπεὶ ἐξήλθον τὴν Περσίδα χώρην: cf. Thompson Gr. Synt. § 90. 2.

739. προσώψω νῶτον ἐγκ. σὸν, 'turning thy back upon my face.'

742. ἄλγος ἂν προσθείμεθ' ἂν, ἂν is frequently repeated twice or even three times with the same verb either to make the conditional force felt throughout a long sentence, or to emphasize particular words affected by the contingency: cf. Goodwin, Syntax of Greek Moods and Tenses § 223.

744. 'to search out the path of thy designs': for ὁδόν in a metaphorical sense, cf. Hipp. 290 γνώμης ὁδόν: Aesch. Eum. 989 γλώσσης ὁδόν.

745. ἄρ' ἐκλογίζομαι κ.τ.λ. lit. 'am I, I wonder, reckoning up this man's state of mind too much on the side of hostility?' i.e. 'am I crediting Agamemnon with greater hostility towards me than he really feels?' μᾶλλον, 'over-much.'

748. εἰς ταὐτὸν ἦκεις, sc. ἐμοί: i.e. you and I agree entirely: cf. Or. 1278 A. καλῶς τά γ' ἐνθένδ'. ἀλλὰ τὰπὶ σοῦ σκοπεῖ. B. εἰς ταὐτὸν ἦκεις· καὶ γὰρ οὐδὲ τῇδ' ὄχλος.

749. τιμωρεῖν is to help those to right who suffer wrong, or from another point of view, to punish the guilty in the interests of the injured: hence the dative is used of the person whose wrong is redressed (*dativus commodi*): the accusative of the person punished (direct accus., sometimes the crime committed is regarded as the offender and is in the accus.): the genitive of the wrong done (genit. of cause). The middle means 'to avenge oneself upon,' and so to 'punish' generally.

752. Hecuba suddenly turns round and before Agamemnon can prevent her (as Odysseus, *supr.* 342, proposed to prevent Polyxena), becomes his suppliant by touching his knees, his chin, and his right hand.

753. δεξιᾶς τ' εὐδαίμονος, 'that right hand of thine, that ever prospers.' Hecuba contrasts his position with her own.

754. μαστεύουσα. Both μαστεύω and ματεύω are found in Attic poets: Homer uses ματεύω only: cf. *infr.* 779, 815, and *supr.* 98 n.

755. θέσθαι, cf. *supr.* 656 n. Notice the force of the middle, 'to get thy days set free.'

ῥάδιον γάρ ἐστὶ σοι, i.e. 'it is an easy boon from me to thee': this is preferable to regarding μὼν ἐλ. αἰῶνα θ. as equivalent to 'to put an end to thy life, and so free thyself,' in which case these words would = 'it is open to thee so to do.'

757 corresponds closely to 755. The emphasis lies on τιμωρομένη, 'if only I may punish those who have worked me ill, right gladly will I be a slave for all my days.'

760. οὗ, 'on which': cf. H. F. 934 ἀφρὸν κατέσταζ' εὐτρίχου γενειάδος: the genit. is used with κατὰ in the sense of 'down upon.'

762. ζώνης ὕπο, cf. Aesch. Cho. 992 τέκνων ἦνεγχε' ὑπὸ ζώνης βάρους. Eum. 608.

765. ἦ γάρ in surprised or eager questions: cf. Soph. Phil. 248 ἦ γὰρ μετέσχεας καὶ σὺ τοῦδε τοῦ πόνου; is Neoptolemus' rejoinder to Philoctetes' mention of the expedition against Troy: cf. *infr.* 1047, 1124.

766. ἀνόνητα, cf. Hipp. 1144 ὦ τάλαινα μάτερ, ἔτεκες ἀνόνατα.

768. ὀρρωδῶ is a favourite word with Herodotus (in its Ionic form ὀρρωδῶ) and is frequent in Attic prose: Eurip. uses it three times (ὀρρωδία also several times), but it does not occur in Soph. or Aesch. In two out of the three passages, Eur. constructs it (most unusually) with the infin., here and *fr.* 128: Ammonius the Alexandrine grammarian says, quoting Euripides, ὀρρωδεῖν εἴρηται ἐπὶ τοῦ εὐλαβεῖσθαι: so here we may translate, 'taking precautions that he should not die': εὐλαβεῖσθαι is similarly used with the infin.: cf. Soph. O. T. 616 εὐλαβουμένῳ πεσεῖν.

771. For the inclusion of Πολυμήτωρ in the relative clause, cf. Hipp. 101 τήνδ' ἣ πύλαισι σαῖς ἐφέστηκεν Κύπρις.

772. πικρότατον is proleptic, 'the cause of his undoing.' Cf. *supr.* 12.

774. Θρήξ νιν ὤλεσε ξένος. Notice the emphatic position of ξένος.

The reputation enjoyed in Greece by the Thracians was not good. They were proverbial for their cruelty, in proof of which may be adduced the slaughter of the Mycalessians, described by Thucydides (vii. 29), who adds that, when successful, τὸ γένος τὸ τῶν Θρακῶν φονικώτατόν ἐστιν, and the murder of prisoners by Seuthes, narrated in the Anabasis (vii. 4). Their cruelty was accentuated by their faithlessness, as in the latter case, while some of the maritime tribes, notably in Salmydessus (ἐχθρόξενος ναύταισι, μητρὶα νεῶν, Aesch. Prom. 727), were professional wreckers. Horace is witness to their quarrelsome and intemperate habits in his day—*natis in usum laetitiae scyphis pugnare Thracum est*—and human sacrifices are stated by Herod. (ix. 119) to have been not unheard of. They were the Switzers of their time, ready to sell their swords to any hirer and in any cause: ready too to betray a falling master: a natural recruiting ground for Athenian policemen (τοξόται) and Roman gladiators, for bravos and assassins; like the Highland clansmen, terrible in their onset, but, like them too, soon discouraged; most terrible, when victory placed plunder before their eyes. We cannot feel surprise, that members of the peace party at Athens had little affection for allies such as these, and that the herald of the great Sitalces meets with scant courtesy at the hands of Dicaeopolis (Ar. Ach. 134). Thracian ξένοι and their doings had probably been often on men's lips in Athens, since the time of Sitalces' alliance in 431: and no doubt the allusions in this play to the faithlessness, cruelty and avarice of the barbarian despot of an earlier age did not fall on unheeding ears.

775. ἦ πον asks a hesitating question, or rather perhaps puts a statement in a hesitating, enquiring form. Elmsley (Med. 1275) denies the directly interrogative force of this collocation of particles, which, though common in Eurip., occurs perhaps only once in Soph., and rarely in Aesch.

χρυσόν. On the greed of the Thracians, especially their kings, cf. Thuc. ii. 97. 4 οὐ γὰρ ἦν πρᾶξαι οὐδὲν μὴ διδόντα δῶρα.

776. τοιαῦτα, 'even so': cf. El. 645 A. ξυνῆχ'. ὑποπτος οὐσα γινώσκει πόλει. | B. τοιαῦτα' μισεῖται γὰρ ἀνόσιος γυνή. So ταῦτα, Ar. Pax 275.

782. ὦδε διατεμὼν χροῶ, cf. supr. 716 n.

783. σχετλία...τῶν πόνων: for the genit. cf. Thompson Gr. Synt. § 101, n. 1.

784. 'there remains nought of misery untried,' lit. 'there is nought of misery remaining over.'

786 sqq. Hear my story, and be thou judge betwixt him and me. if thou hold him guiltless, I say no more: if guilty, then do thou be my helper and avenger on this wicked man, who hath broken the laws of gods and men: who, after eating at our table, hath slain the son entrusted to his keeping, nay, hath refused him burial and cast him to the waves. I am but a slave, and weak: but gods are strong, and stronger still is that Law, which, centering in you as the gods' vicegerent, will be outraged, if the breakers of troth and despisers of holy things escape. Think then on this and reverence my supplication: pity me: contemplate my woes, once queen and mother, now a slave, childless friendless cityless and old. (Ah stay, turn not from me: woe is me—bootlessly do we mortals toil at other arts, yet leave neglected the sovereign art of all, Persuasion.) Why henceforth, with my fate before his eyes, should a man hope for prosperity? My children dead, myself a slave, my home ashes. But stay, one other ground there is, on which (vainly maybe) I claim thy help. Bethink thee of her, who sleeps beside thee, my child, Cassandra: is there to be no return of pity for her love? That dead man thou seest claims kin with thee, and claiming kin, he claims revenge. Oh would there were voices in my arms hands feet; then would they cling about thee, crying out for pity. Master, hear me; stretch out thy hand to me: old and useless as I am, still be my helper. It behoves the good man to succour justice and destroy the wicked.

786. 'none so unfortunate indeed, save only Misfortune's self.' Parallel expressions are Plaut. Capt. 529 *neque iam Salus servare, si volt, me potest*. Ter. Ad. 761: Cic. Tusc. iv. 31 *Fortunam ipsam anteibo fortunæ meis*.

790. *τιμωρὸς ἀνδρός*. The genitive is used with adjectives of transitive action, where the corresponding verbs would have the accusative. It is better to regard *τιμωρὸς* as an adjective than as a noun: in the latter case, the genitive is used of the person assisted, not the person punished. Cf. *supr.* 235 n.

791. *τοὺς γῆς νέρθεν*, sc. *θεοῦς*: the *χθόνιοι θεοί* as distinguished from *τοὺς ἀνω*, the *οὐράνιοι* or *ὑπατοὶ θεοί*. It must be borne in mind that *ὅσιος* means either what is in accordance with divine law, holy, as opposed to *δίκαιος*, sanctioned by human law (so here, Polymestor is *ἀνόσιος* as transgressing divine law), or what is merely permitted, not forbidden by the divine law, and so secular (L. *profanus*): cf. Dem. Timocr. 9 *Τιμοκράτης οὕτωσι τοσούτων ὑπερεῖδεν ἅπαντα τὰ πράγματα, ὥστε τίθησι τουτονὶ τὸν νόμον, δι' οὗ τῶν ἱερῶν μὲν χρημάτων τοὺς θεοὺς, τῶν ὀσίων δὲ τὴν πόλιν ἀποστερεῖ*.

794. 'Often have we sat at the same table: our hospitality he has shared more frequently than any other of our friends: yet though he has experienced such kindness at our hands, he has slain and robbed of burial our son.' Such is my interpretation of this vexed passage: *ξενίας* I take as genitive following *τυχών* l. 793 (it may either be from the substantive *ξενία*, 'hospitality,' or from the adj. *ξένιος*, when it would agree with *τραπέξης*: for *ξεν. τραπ.* cf. *Od. xiv. 158 ἴστω νῦν Ζεὺς πρῶτα θεῶν ξενίῃ τε τράπεζα*); *ἀριθμῶ* I connect adverbially with *πρῶτα*: *τυχών* then in line 795 is resumptive and forcible: *λαβὼν προμηθίαν* I take as correlative to *ἔχω προμηθίαν*, 'have consideration for' (cf. *Alc. 1054 ἐγὼ δὲ σοῦ προμηθίαν ἔχω*), and render 'having received consideration at our hands.'

796. A condensed expression: 'assuming there might be some excuse for his desire to kill the boy, he might at any rate have given him burial: but he did not.'

797. *ἀφῆκε πόντιον*, 'cast him to the waves.'

798. 'I am a weak slave, it may be (*ἴσως*): yes, but gods are strong.' For *δοῦλοι* cf. *supr. 237 n.*

799. *χὼ κείνων κρατῶν νόμος*, cf. *Pind. fr. 151 νόμος ὁ πάντων βασιλεὺς θνατῶν τε καὶ ἀθανάτων ἄγει*. Euripides, like his friend and teacher Anaxagoras, recognized one mighty intelligence as supreme governor of the universe, though by what name he is to be called the poet professes doubt: *Ζεὺς*, *αἰθήρ*, *νοῦς*, *ἀνάγκη*, *νόμος* in turn are used to express the ruling principle, which to his devout albeit questioning mind was God: cf. *Tro. 884* (Hecuba speaks) *ὦ γῆς ὄχημα κάπλ γῆς ἔχων ἔδραν, | ὅστις ποτ' εἰ σύ, δυστόπαστος εἰδέναι, | Ζεὺς, εἴτ' ἀνάγκη φύσεος εἶτε νοῦς βροτῶν, | προσευξάμην σε· πάντα γὰρ δι' ἀψόφου | βαλνῶν κελεύθου κατὰ δίκην τὰ θνήτ' ἄγει*. (To which Menelaus replies *τί δ' ἔστιν; εὐχὰς ὡς ἐκάλισας* ('revolutionized') *θεῶν*.) Whether he really recognized the gods of the mythology as subordinate agencies, or regarded them as convenient embodiments only, calculated to impress the popular imagination, is hard to decide. At any rate, like Plato, he discarded all discreditable stories of the gods as *δοιδῶν δύστηνοι λόγοι*: indeed in the *Bellerophon* he says (*fr. 294. 7*) *εἰ θεοί τι δρῶσιν αἰσχρόν, οὐκ εἰσὶν θεοί*.

νόμῳ γὰρ τοὺς θεοὺς ἡγοῦμεθα, 'it is by reason of the existence of law, that we believe in the existence of gods,' i.e. by observation of the law and order of the universe, we infer the existence of a great directing power.

ἡγέσθαι θεοὺς (like *νομίζειν θεοὺς*, cf. *Plat. Apol. 24 B Σωκράτης φησὶν*

ἀδικεῖν, θεούς, οὓς ἡ πόλις νομίζει, οὐ νομίζοντα): cf. El. 583 *χρὴ μὴκέθ' ἡγεῖσθαι θεοὺς | εἰ τᾷδικ' ἔσται τῆς δίκης ὑπέρτερα*. Plat. Apol. 27 D, and often: the meaning is to 'believe in the existence of gods.'

802. *ῥῆς*, sc. *νόμος*: *ἀνελθὼν* is used as passive of *ἀναφέρειν*, 'to refer.' In the Homeric times kings were regarded as vicegerents of the gods, who prompted the *θέμστες* or judgments, which they delivered. If justice is to be corrupted at its source, Hecuba argues, then farewell to all fair dealing among men.

804. *φέρειν*, 'plunder': cf. Bacch. 759: Thuc. i. 7 *ἔφερον γὰρ ἀλλήλους τε καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ὅσοι ὄντες οὐ θαλάσσιοι κάτω ᾤκουν*. *φέρειν καὶ ἄγειν* is the common phrase.

807. *ἀποσταθεῖς*, 'having placed yourself a short distance off,' seems to be the meaning; the metaphor is from an artist falling back a few paces from his model, in order to take in the general effect. Euripides had been an art-student in his youth.

810. *γραῦς*, old, and therefore with no hope of more children.

812. *ὑπεξάγεις πόδα*, 'withdrawest thy foot,' is equivalent to 'leavest,' and thus acquiring a transitive sense takes after it the accusative *με*: cf. supr. 737 n. For *ποῖ*, cf. supr. 419 n. We must suppose that Agamemnon turns away at this point, either to conceal his emotion at Hecuba's piteous appeal, or to escape from her persistent entreaties.

814. The defect, which Euripides represents Hecuba as deploring, the lack of systematic training in persuasiveness, was, at the time of the production of this play, in a fair way to be remedied. Only a year or two before (427) there had appeared at Athens, as envoy from his native city, Leontini in Sicily, the celebrated rhetorician Gorgias: quick-witted and dramatic, the Sicilian Greeks had amid the change and stir of falling despotisms and rising democracies discovered the value of the art of speaking, whether for offence or defence, to persuade a jury or to dazzle an assembly, and professors of this art, Corax, Tisias and the rest, were not slow to appear. From Sicily both the art and its professors found their way into Greece proper, where a ready welcome was extended to them, and though the old-fashioned folk disliked and feared these forgers of new weapons, they, with the teachers of the modern philosophic theories of Anaxagoras and his school, practically took in hand the higher education of Greek youth. Shallow as were often the methods and unworthy the ends proposed by these new teachers, on the whole the verdict of history is in their favour. Attacked on the one side by old Toryism in the caricatures of Aristophanes, on the other by philo-

sophic radicalism in the misrepresentations of Plato, assailed by the former as dangerous innovators, devoid of reverence for institutions which had justified their existence in times of national peril, by the latter as shallow empirics with no real knowledge of the abuses they proposed to remedy, and by both as venal and corrupt seekers after private gain, it was not till Grote demonstrated their true position as a necessary link in the intellectual evolution of the race, as the needed solvent of old prejudices and outworn traditions in religion and politics, that the Sophists were recognized as a truly progressive body, working indeed singly, and without organization, but bound together by a common purpose, and invincible by reason of their fitness for the epoch of change and re-combination, in which they lived, and of which they were a product.

816. **πειθῶ τὴν τύραννον**, imitated by Pacuvius, *O flexanima atque omnium regina rerum oratio* (quoted by Cicero de orat. ii. 187 and referred to by Quintil. i. 12. 18).

817. **ἐς τέλος** is to be taken with **μανθάνειν**, 'thoroughly.'

818. **μισθοὺς διδόντες**. The Sophists were attacked on the ground that they took fees for the instruction they gave: cf. Xen. Mem. i. 6. 13.

ἦν: for the past tense of the indicative, expressing a purpose which could only be attained in an imagined case, contrary to reality, cf. Hadley Gr. Gr. § 884.

820. She resumes her direct appeal to Agamemnon.

τί οὖν, Porson (Phoen. 892) denied that this hiatus is admissible in tragedy: but cf. Aesch. Theb. 704 **τί οὖν ἔτ' ἂν σαλνοίμεν ὀλέθριον μῆρον**; Soph. Phil. 100: Aesch. Eum. 902: so **εὖ ἴσθι**, Soph. O. T. 959.

ἐλπίσαι, the forms of the 1 aor. opt. in **-σαις**, **-σαι** are much rarer than those ending in **-σεις**, **-σειε**.

821. **οἱ μὲν γὰρ ὄντες παῖδες**, the children who were left survivors after the fall of Troy, Polyxena and Polydorus: an easily intelligible paradox, 'even my surviving children are now dead.'

822. **ἐπ' αἰσχροῖς**, 'for a menial fate.'

823. **τόνδ'**, deictic.

824. **καὶ μὴν** introduces the new thought: **τοῦ λόγου** depends on **τόδε**, 'this part of my argument.' **κενὸν**, 'unavailing.'

825. **εἰρήσεται**, Hom. Poet. and Herod.; **ῥηθήσομαι**, Attic Prose.

826. **κοιμίζειν** is always used in a metaphorical sense = 'to still': Soph. Aj. 674 **δεινῶν τ' ἄημα πνευμάτων ἐκόλμισε | στένοντα πόντον**. Phoen. 184 **Νέμεσι, σύ τοι μεγαλαγορίαν ὑπεράνορα κοιμίζεις**: especially

of the sleep of death, *supr.* 474: Hipp. 1387. So here we must connect it closely with ἡ φοιβάς, 'my child's frenzied spirit sinks to sleep by thy side.'

828. 'In what way will you show your gratitude for those nights of love you call (δῆτ') so dear?' ποῦ δέλξεις is an odd phrase: it may = 'in what esteem (ποῦ) will you show that you hold?' εὐφρόνας, an intentionally chosen word, perhaps influencing the meaning of δέλξεις, 'how will you show those dear nights of love were nights of love indeed?' i.e. as leading to εὖ φρονεῖν now.

830. κείνης δ' ἐγώ, i.e. τίνα χάριν (gratitude for) κείνης ἐγὼ ἔξω;

835. δράσεις, *sc.* καλῶς.

836. After the doubtful delicacy of ll. 825—830 this beautiful passage comes as a relief.

εἰ, for the usual εἴθε or εἰ γάρ, in the expression of a wish is rare: cf. Soph. O. T. 863 εἰ μοι ξυνεῖη φέροντι μοῖρα τὰν εὖσεπτον ἀγνείαν λόγων.

838. Δαιδάλου τέχνασιν, *schol.* περὶ τῶν Δαιδάλου ἔργων ὅτι ἐκινεῖτο καὶ προτεῖ φωνήν, αὐτὸς τε Εὐριπίδης ἐν Εὐρύσθεϊ λέγει· οὐκ ἔστιν, ὦ γεραιέ, μὴ δείσης τάδε· | τὰ Δαιδάλεια πάντα κινεῖσθαι δοκεῖ | βλέπειν τ' ἀγάλασθ'· ὦδ' ἀνὴρ κείνος σοφός. To Daedalus were attributed many of the old wooden statues of the gods, which were regarded with peculiar veneration. The improvements in statuary assigned to him are that he opened the ὄμματα μεμυκῶτα—the closed eyes, and divided the σκέλη συμβεβηκῶτα—closed legs, of the still more archaic ξόανα. His statues were called διαβεβηκῶτα.

839. ὁμαρτῇ = ὁμοῦ (*Hesych.*) occurs also Hipp. 1195, Heracl. 138.

840. κλαίοντ' ἐπισκῆπτοντα *κ.τ.λ.*, cf. Aeschin. 76. ὁ κλαίοντας ἰκετεύοντας ἐπισκῆπτοντας μηδενὶ τρόπῳ τὸν ἀλιτῆριον στεφανοῦν.

841. ὦ δέσποτ'. The pathos of this appeal to her 'master' from the fallen queen is great.

843. εἰ καὶ, 'although': καὶ εἰ, 'even if.'

ἀλλ' ὅμως, cf. Bacch. 1027 ὥς σε στενάξω, δοῦλος ὦν μὲν, ἀλλ' ὅμως. Ar. Ach. 402 Αἰ. ἐκκάλεσον αὐτόν. ΚΗ. ἀλλ' ἀδύνατον. Αἰ. ἀλλ' ὅμως, where Aristophanes is ridiculing Eur.'s fondness for ἀλλ' ὅμως at the end of a line.

846. 'Strange indeed is it, how everything, probable and improbable, comes to pass for men: and how Necessity's laws determine, making friends of bitterest foes and bringing former friends to enmity.' Nothing short of ἀνάγκης νόμος could have reconciled Hecuba to the author of the ruin of her family and her country. See *crit. n.*

ἅπαντα, *Lat.* *nil nisi*, 'everything, likely or unlikely.'

848. τιθέντες, cf. supr. 656 n.

851. δι' οἴκτου ἔχω = 'pity.' On this and many similar phrases (δι' ὀργῆς ἔχειν, δι' αἰτίας ἔχειν, δι' ἔχθρας γίγνεσθαι and the like), cf. Thompson Gr. Synt. p. 308.

852. θεῶν θ' εἶνεκ', as a breach of hospitality was an offence against heaven.

853. δικάλουν, 'justice between man and man': cf. supr. 791 n.

854. Two constructions are here confused: εἰ πως φανείη γ', ὥστε σοὶ τ' ἔχειν καλῶς, στρατῷ τε ἐμὲ μὴ δόξαι and εἰ πως φανείη θ', ὥστε σοὶ ἔχειν καλῶς, στρατῷ τε μὴ δόξαιμι. In other words the δόξαιμι clause should be parallel with the ἔχειν καλῶς clause, and depend on ὥστε, but instead of δόξαι, which would be expected, the writer, by an attraction to the εἰ πως φανείη clause, has written δόξαιμι.

φανείη, sc. δίκη.

860. χωρὶς τοῦτο κοῦ κοινὸν στρατῷ, 'that is a purely personal feeling, and not shared by the army.'

862. ταχὺν προσαρκέσαι, 'swift to help you,' if it depends on myself alone.

863. εἰ διαβληθήσομαι, 'if I am to fall into disfavour with': cf. Thuc. iv. 22. 3 μὴ ἐς τοὺς ξυμμάχους διαβληθῶσιν εἰπόντες καὶ οὐ τυχόντες, 'lose favour with the allies by speaking without success': Heracl. 420 ταῦτ' οὖν ὅρα σὺ καὶ συνεξεύρισχ' ὅπως | αὐτοὶ τε σωθήσεσθε καὶ πέδον τόδε, | κἀγὼ πολίταις μὴ διαβληθήσομαι.

866. πόλεος. Jebb (on Ant. 412) gives the instances of this form found in trimeters (one in Soph., two in Aesch., and three, besides the present case, which he omits, in Eur.): also ὄψεος, and in Comedy φύσεος, ὕβρεος. They are due to metrical convenience.

867. εἰργουσι χρῆσθαι μὴ, 'prevent him from using.' The μὴ is out of place: the order should be εἰργ. μὴ χρ.: for the so-called redundant negative, cf. Hadley Gr. Gr. § 1029: Heracl. 963 εἰργει δὲ δὴ τίς τόνδε μὴ θανεῖν νόμος;

868. Notice Hecuba's contemptuous reference to the στρατὸς as ὄχλος, 'mob.'

869. ἐγώ, 'I, your slave': emphasis is added both by its place in the line and its juxtaposition to σε.

870. 'Be my accomplice in plan, but not in action.'

872. ἧ' πικουρία, infr. 878: cf. supr. 527 n.

873. πάσχοντος οἷα πέσεται. *Hujusmodi formulis utuntur Graeci, quando de rebus injucundis breviter effari volunt.* Blomfield gloss. ad Aesch. Ag. 66), who gives many instances: Soph. O. T. 1376

βλαστοῦσ' ὅπως ἐβλαστε: O. C. 273 ἰκδμην ἔν' ἰκδμην: Med. 1011 ἡγγειλας οἱ' ἡγγειλας: El. 289 ἔκυρσεν ὡς ἔκυρσεν.

874. μὴ δοκῶν ἐμὴν χάριν, 'without seeming to be doing so for my sake': 'μὴ is often used instead of οὐ with participles or other words, through an influence of the verbs on which they depend, when these verbs either have μὴ, or would have it, if negative.' Hadley Gr. Gr. § 1027.

ἐμὴν χάριν, cf. Soph. Tr. 485 κείνου τε καὶ σὴν ἐξ ἴσου κοινήν χάριν.

875. θήσω καλῶς, a formula of reassurance: cf. Hipp. 521, and very freq. When the middle voice is used (εἶ, καλῶς, θήσομαι), reference is made to a person's private interests: see examples in Elmsley's note on Medea 896.

880. στέγαι αἶδε, pointing to the encampment in the background: cf. supr. 59 n.

882. φονεά, only here and El. 599, 763.

883. ἀρσένων κράτος, 'mastery over men': cf. Tro. 949 δς τῶν μὲν ἄλλων δαιμόνων ἔχει κράτος, | κείνης δὲ δοῦλός ἐστι.

884. σὺν δόλῳ τε, 'and when aided by stratagem.'

885. μέμφομαι, 'have a poor opinion of.' Cf. fr. 199 τὸ δ' ἀσθενές μου καὶ τὸ θῆλυ σώματος | κακῶς ἐμέμφθης. So καταμέμφομαι = 'distrust.'

886. The fifty daughters of Danaos married and slew on the wedding night the fifty sons of Aegyptos, Danaos' brother, with the solitary exception of Hypermnestra, who spared Lynceus.

887. The Lemnian women, having slain all their husbands, chose Hypsipyle, the daughter of their late king, Thoas, as their queen; and were living without male companionship, when the Argonauts on their wanderings visited the Λαμνιᾶν ἔθνος γυναικῶν ἀνδροφόνων (Pind. Pyth. iv. 252). Λήμνια ἔργα was a proverb for atrocity: cf. Aesch. Cho. 631 κακῶν δὲ πρεσβεύεται ('takes first place') τὸ Δήμνιον λόγῳ. Herod. vi. 138.

887. ἄρδην, 'utterly': as αἶρω means, (1) to lift up, (2) to take away, so ἄρδην is used in the signification, (1) 'aloft': Soph. Aj. 1279 πηδῶντος ἄρδην Ἐκτορος τάφρων ὕπερ, (2) 'utterly' (take away, destroy): Lat. *funditus*: Ion 1274 ἄρδην μ' ἀν ἐξέπεμψας εἰς Ἀϊδου δόμους.

ἐξώκισαν. ἐξοικίζειν means orig. to 'eject a person from his home,' and this being equivalent to 'depopulate,' Eur. here uses it with the direct accus. of the land so emptied: cf. supr. 812 n. He uses the word infr. 948 in its proper sense.

888. ὥς = οὕτως: cf. supr. 441 n.

889. τήνδ', pointing to one of her fellow-slaves, whom she addresses in the next line.

πέμψον ἀσφαλῶς, 'give safe-conduct to.'

891. δὴ ποτε, cf. supr. 484 τὴν ἀνασσαν δὴ ποτ' οὔσαν Ἰλίου, and n.

892. σὸν οὐκ ἔλασσον ἢ κείνης χρέος, cf. supr. 874 n. and Soph.

Tr. 485 there quoted.

894. ἐκείνης, Hecuba. She puts herself in the place of the person delivering the message.

898. καὶ γὰρ κ.τ.λ., 'for etc.' Ag. begins the sentence as though it were to run, 'for there is no chance of sailing at present: otherwise, if there were, I should not be able etc.' καὶ γὰρ introduces the double statement, εἰ μὲν ἦν—νῦν δέ, where the real point lies in the δέ-sentence.

900. νῦν δέ, 'as matters stand': a very frequent meaning: cf. L. and S. s. v. I. 3.

901. ἥσυχον is adverbial, and should be joined with μένειν: cf. Heracl. 477 γυναικὶ γὰρ σιγὴ τε καὶ τὸ σωφρονεῖν | κάλλιστον, εἴσω δ' ἥσυχον μένειν δόμων (and Elmsley's n.).

πλοῦν ὁρῶντας, 'on the look-out for a chance of sailing.' A very similar use of the verb is seen in Soph. Aj. 1165 σπεῦσον κοίλῃν κάπετόν τιν' (grave) ἰδεῖν τῷδε, where ἰδεῖν means to look about for and find: so Theocr. xv. 2 ὄρη δίφρον, Εὐνόα, αὐτᾶ.

903. Cf. fr. 1036 κακὸν γὰρ ἄνδρα χρὴ κακῶς πάσχειν ἀεὶ.

905. What may be regarded as the third act of the play closes at this point, and the chorus mark the interval between it and the last act, by singing an ode, in glyconic metre, descriptive of the fatal night, when, issuing from the wooden horse, the Grecian warriors opened the gates of Troy to their comrades, and making easy prey of its brave defenders, sunk in careless sleep after a day's rejoicing at the raising of the ten years' leaguer, avenged themselves in blood and fire for their long severance from home and friends. The ode is singularly beautiful, and it would be hard to parallel from ancient literature the picture of the husband, sleeping at last without fear of night alarms, his spear hanging unneeded, as he thinks, upon the wall, while his wife lingers looking χρυσέων ἐνόπτρων ἀτέρμονας εἰς αὐγὰς, as she binds up her hair in preparation for a night of unbroken peaceful sleep. The contrast between that brief moment of happiness and security and the long years of misery and slavery before the captives, is drawn by a master-hand.

906. λέξει, passive: so regularly in trag.: cf. H. F. 582 ὁ καλλίνικος ὡς πάροιθε λέξομαι: Alc. 322: Soph. O. C. 1186. Similarly δηλώσεται,

Soph. O. C. 581 : *τιμήσεται*, Ant. 210 : *φυλάζεται*, Phil. 48. 'Thou shalt no longer be spoken of as one among cities unsacked.' *τῶν ἀπορρήτων*, sc. *πόλεων*. This was a boast of Athens, cf. Med. 826 *Ιερᾶς χώρας ἀπορρήτου τε*. Aesch. Pers. 350.

907. *νέφος*, cf. Phoen. 250 *ἀμφὶ δὲ πτόλιν νέφος | ἀσπίδων πυκνὸν φλέγει | σχῆμα φοίνου μάχης*: Pind. Nem. x. 9 *Οἰκλείδαν, πολέμοιο νέφος*: ix. 38 *φόνου νεφέλαν*: Isth. iii. 35 *τραχεῖα νιφὰς πολέμοιο*: Hom. Il. xvii. 243 *πολέμοιο νέφος περὶ πάντα καλύπτει. ἀμφὶ σε κρύπτει = ἀμφικρύπτει σε*: so 910 *ἀπὸ—κέκαρσαι*: 912 *κατὰ—κέχρωσαι*.

910. 'thou hast been shorn of thy circlet of towers': cf. Tro. 784 *ὦ παῖ* (Astyanax), *βαῖνε πατρώων | πύργων ἐπ' ἄκρας στεφάνας, ὅτι σοι | πνεῦμα μεθεῖναι ψῆφος ἐκράνθη*.

912. *κηλῖδα*, cognate accus.: 'hast been blackened with the foul smoke's smirch most piteous.'

913. *ἐμβατεύσω*, 'shall I haunt thee': the word is specially used of protecting deities: Soph. O. C. 678 *ὦ' ὁ βακχιώτας ἀεὶ Διόνυσος ἐμβατεύει*. Aesch. Pers. 449, of Pan.

914. Cf. Virg. Aen. ii. 265 *invadunt urbem somno vinoque sepultam*: |*tempus erat quo prima quies mortalibus aegris | incipit*.

915. *ἦμος* only used in this one passage by Eurip., though it is found more frequently in Sophocles. It is one of the very many Ionic words, which lingered on in Tragedy, after it had passed out of Attic prose. On the subject of such survivals, cf. Rutherford New Phryn. pp. 1—31.

ἐκ, 'after.'

916. Whether *σκίδναται* or *κίδναται* is to be read '*anceps judicium*,' says Porson. The word does not occur elsewhere in tragedy: *σκεδάννυμι* is the Attic form.

μολπᾶν ἄπο and *θυσίαν καταπαύσας* are co-ordinate: 'after the songs and sacrifice.'

920. *ξυστὸν δ' ἐπὶ πασσάλῳ* is parenthetical. Paley quotes Theocritus xxiv. 42 *δαιδάλεον δ' ὥρμησε μετὰ ξίφος, δ' οἱ ὕπερθε | κλιντῆρος κεδρίνῳ περὶ πασσάλῳ αἰὲν ἄωρο*.

921. *ναύταν* is adjunct.: cf. supr. 406 n.

922. *Τροίαν* here of the Troad, not Troy-town: so often in the Iliad: cf. iii. 74.

924. *μίτραισιν κ.τ.λ.* The *μίτρα* was an Eastern form of head-dress, consisting of broad bands of bright colour, with lappets hanging down over the side of the face. Herod. (i. 195) tells us that the Babylonians confined their long hair with *μίτραι*: cf. Virg. Aen. iv.

216 *et nunc ille Paris cum semiviro comitatu | Maeonia mentum mitra crinemque madentem | subnixus, raptō potitur.*

ἀναδέτοις is ἄπ. λεγ. ἐρρυθμίζομαι, 'was reducing to order' the wandering unruly tresses : a picturesque word.

925. χρυσέων ἐνόπτρων. The mention of mirrors is again probably a slight anachronism. Homer does not speak of them, and the earliest do not seem to date back farther than 500 B.C. : we frequently hear of silver and of bronze mirrors, but not of gold : so both here and in Tro. 1107 we may assume that the epithet has been chosen by the poet to heighten the picture of luxurious ease, and thereby accentuate the contrast.

926. ἀτέρμονας εἰς αὐγὰς, 'looking into the fathomless bright depths,' to my thinking a perfect phrase. The fact that she is looking *into* the mirror seems to be an objection to Paley's view (quite apart from the question of taste), 'the light, which proceeding from a fixed point, viz. the mirror itself, is flashed back without any definite limit.' Mr Way, I am glad to see, is in substantial agreement with my rendering.

927. ἐπιδέμνιος, ἄπ. λεγ. For ἐπιδέμνιος πέσοιμι cf. supr. 797 ἀφῆκε πόντιον.

928. πόλιν : the πόλις strictly speaking was the Acropolis, or fortified height, round which the ἄστυ, or lower town, gathered : possibly the distinction should be observed here, as the Greeks would naturally make their entrance by the lower town (see next line κέλευσμα δ' ἦν κατ' ἄστυ κ.τ.λ.). Dr Schliemann asserted that there was no Acropolis at Troy, but the reference in Od. viii. 508 ἧ κατὰ πετρῶων βαλέειν (sc. the wooden horse) ἐρύσαντας ἐπ' ἄκρης, to say nothing of the epithets ἡνεμέεσσα and the like, is against him (cf. infr. 931 Ἰλιάδα σκοπιάν). Even if his view were correct, it would not affect this passage, as Eur. would assign to Troy the features usual in all old Greek towns.

930. παῖδες Ἑλλάνων : for this somewhat scriptural periphrasis, cf. Aesch. Pers. 402 (in the well-known description of Salamis) παρῆν ὁμοῦ κλύειν | πολλὴν βοήν, ὧ παῖδες Ἑλλήνων, ἴτε, | ἐλευθεροῦτε πατρίδ' κ.τ.λ. So Λυδῶν παῖδες, Her. i. 27.

934. μονόπεπλος, Δωρὶς ὡς κόρα, wearing only an under-shift, χιτῶνιον, probably : references to the scanty dress of Spartan maidens (a sleeveless χιτῶν, not reaching to the knee, and open at one side) are frequent : cf. Andr. 596 sqq.

935. προσίζουσ' οὐκ ἦνυσ', 'nought it availed me that I sat me as

a suppliant' etc., lit. 'I accomplished nothing, sitting,' etc.: cf. Il. iv. 56 *εἰ περ γὰρ φθονέω τε καὶ οὐκ εἰὼ διαπέρσαι, | οὐκ ἀνύω φθονέουσ', ἐπεὶ ἦ πολὺ φέρτερός ἐσσι.*

936. Artemis favoured the Trojans in the war: cf. Il. v. 447 where Leto and Artemis *λοχέαιρα* tend the wounded Aeneas. She was worshipped as *σώτειρα* and *παιδοτρόφος*.

939. *ἀποσκοποῦσ'*, 'turning earnest gaze upon': turning away from everything else (*ἀπο-*) to look at the city: *ἀποβλέπειν* is freq. in the same sense.

940. *νόστιμον ναῦς ἐκ πόδα*, 'the ship hurried on its homeward way': *κινεῖν πόδα*, metaphorical.

942. *ἀπείπον ἄλγχι*, 'faint am I for sorrow.' 'The aorist denotes a feeling, or an act expressive of it, which *began to be just before* the moment of speaking.' Hadley Gr. Gr. § 842. Cf. infr. 1276, *ἀπέπτυσ'*: Soph. Aj. 536 *ἐπῆνεσ' ἔργον καὶ πρόνοιαν ἦν ἔθου* (and Jebb's note). The words are parenthetical: cf. supr. 920.

944. *βούταν*, cf. supr. 646.

945. *αἰνόπαριν*, 'Paris, author of ill': cf. Il. iii. 39 *δύσπαρι, εἶδος ἄριστε, γυναιμανὲς ἡπεροπευτά*: Alcman 50 (Welck.) *δύσπαρις, αἰνόπαρις, κακὸν Ἑλλάδι βωτιανείρα*: Eur. Or. 1388 *δυσελένα*.

946. *διδούσ'* carries on the construction of the sentence begun at l. 937.

947. *γᾶς ἐκ πατρίας ἀπώλεσεν*, for *γᾶς ἐξαπώλεσεν*, 'drove ruined from': cf. Aesch. Ag. 528 *καὶ σπέρμα πάσης ἐξαπόλλυται χθονός*.

948. *ἐξώκισεν*, cf. supr. 887 n. *γάμος, οὐ γάμος κ.τ.λ.* So Andr. 103 (of the same marriage) *οὐ γάμον, ἀλλὰ τι' ἄταν*. On *ἀλάστορος*, cf. supr. 686 n.

951. *ἄν*, Helen. Notice the change of subject in the next line.

953. Polymestor, his two children and a retinue, which he dismisses at l. 981, appear upon the stage. This scene affords an opportunity for the display of that *irony*, which lies in the contrast 'between the thought which the speaker evidently designs to express, and that which his words properly signify' (i.e. to a person unconscious of his real meaning). For examples, see ll. 990, 995, 1000, 1021.

φιλάτῃ δὲ σύ, he turns to Hecuba, after apostrophizing the dead Priam.

956. *οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδὲν πιστὸν κ.τ.λ.*, 'nought is there, on which we may rely, neither good name, nor again that, though prospering now, we shall not fall on evil days.' To Hecuba and the chorus,

knowing Polymestor's real character, his opening words, οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδέν πιστόν, are ironically significant.

958. αὐτὰ, human affairs generally. πάλιν τε καὶ πρόσω, 'backwards and forwards': usually πρόσω καὶ ὀπίσω.

959. ἐντιθέντες keeps up the metaphor of φύρουσι, which properly means to knead: ἐντιθ. then='put in as an ingredient.' ἀγνοσίγ, ignorance of what awaits us.

961. προκόπτοντ': cf. Alc. 1079 τί δ' ἂν προκόπτοις, εἰ θέλοις ἀεὶ στένειν; Hipp. 23: the word is properly used of pioneers cutting the way for an army.

ἐς πρόσθεν. On prepositions thus used with adverbs (e.g. εἰς ὅτε, εἰς ἀεί, εἰς αὐτίκα) cf. Rutherford New Phryn. pp. 117 sqq. The preposition εἰς with adverbs of time is found throughout Greek literature.

962. μέμφει ἀπουσίας, 'complain of my absence': cf. Hipp. 1402 τιμῆς ἐμέμφθη: Thuc. viii. 109. 2. The dative of the person (ἐμοί here) can be easily supplied. For the (causal) genitive, cf. Thompson Gr. Synt. § 101.

964. ἀφικόμην—967 ἀφικόμην: cf. supr. 527 n.

970. αἰδώς μ' ἔχει=αἰδοῦμαι, to which word the construction is unconsciously accommodated, and hence τυγχάνουσα not τυγχάνουσιν is written: ὀφθῆναι must be supplied: cf. supr. 812 n.: Cycl. 330 δораῖσι θηρῶν σῶμα περιβαλὼν ἐμὸν | καὶ πῦρ ἀναίθων, χιόνος οὐδέν μοι μέλει: Hipp. 23 τὰ πολλὰ δὲ | πάλαι προκόψασ', οὐ πόνου πολλοῦ με δεῖ (=ῥαδίως ἐκτελῶ).

972. ὀρθαῖς κόραις, 'with unfaltering gaze': cf. I. A. 851 χαῖρ'· οὐ γὰρ ὀρθοῖς ὄμμασιν σ' ἔτ' εἰσορῶ. Lucan ix. 904 *lumine recto*.

973. αὐτὸ, my averted eyes. δύσνοιαν σέθεν, objective genitive.

974, 5. Weak lines: such maidenly restraint would not be expected from a woman of Hecuba's age and position. She will not directly face Polymestor, lest her expression should betray her, and put her enemy on his guard.

976. καὶ θαῦμά γ' οὐδέν: 'aye, nor is it matter for wonder': cf. Soph. O. T. 1319 καὶ θαῦμά γ' οὐδέν: 1132 κούδέν γε θαῦμα: Phil. 38 καὶ ταῦτά γ' ἄλλα θάλπεται ῥάκη, where Jebb notes that in instances like the present, the γε does not emphasize the immediately preceding word (as is more usual in this collocation of particles, καὶ...γε, e.g. Phil. 674 καὶ σέ γ' εἰσάξω), but helps καὶ to introduce a new fact. τίς χρεῖα σ' ἐμοῦ, sc. ἔχει: cf. Il. xi. 606 τί δέ σε χρεῶ ἐμείο;

977. ἐπέμψω for μετεπέμψω, 'send for,' 'summon': cf. Soph.

O. C. 602 πῶς δῆτά σ' ἂν πεμψαλαθ', ὥστ' οἰκεῖν δέχα; 'how then should they fetch thee to them' etc.?

981. ἡδ' ἐρημία, lit. 'this isolation,' i.e. being unattended under these circumstances, with none but friends near (φίλη μὲν εἰ σύ κ.τ.λ.).

983. χρῆν, imperf.: cf. supr. 265 n. Notice χρῆν—984 χρόη: σημαίνειν—999 σημαίνει—1003 σημῆναι: and supr. 527 n.

986. πρῶτον μὲν εἰπέτε παῖδ', δν κ.τ.λ., εἰ ἔῃ. On this prolepsis, by which a substantive belonging to a dependent clause is transferred to the principal clause, see Hadley Gr. Gr. § 878. Xen. Anab. iv. 4. 17 οἱ δὲ ἡρώτων αὐτὸν τὸ στράτευμα, ὅποσον εἴη (it is very common in Xen., cf. Kühner's n. on Anab. i. 1. 5): Hom. Il. v. 85 Τυδεΐδην δ' οὐκ ἂν γνούς, ποτέροισι μετείη.

989. τοῦκείνου μέρος, cf. supr. 874 n.: 892: 'as far as he is concerned.'

991. δεύτερον μαθεῖν, cf. 988 δεύτερον ἐρήσομαι.

992. We may presume that Polydorus had not seen his mother, since the day when he was sent from Troy to the guardianship of Polymestor, ten years before.

993. καὶ δεῦρό γε, cf. supr. 976 n. ὥς σε, 'to you': for ὥς, used only with persons, cf. Thompson Gr. Synt. § 255. Her son had indeed come to Hecuba.

995. Observe the irony of the line.

996. μηδ' ἔρα τῶν πλησίων, sc. τοῦ χρυσοῦ, 'do not covet the treasure of thy neighbours.'

997. ὀνάμην and ὀνασθαι are very common (especially ὀνάμην) in Attic Greek, but the indicative ὀνάμην belongs entirely to the late Greek. Rutherford New Phryn. p. 63.

'Far be it from me: but let me have profit of mine own.' It is just possible we should understand οὕτως before ὀνάμην, 'so (i.e. on these conditions, that I should not covet my neighbours' goods) may I' etc.; cf. Ar. Thesm. 469 καὶ τὴ γὰρ ἔγωγ', οὕτως ὀνάμην τῶν τέκνων, | μισῶ τὸν ἄνδρ' ἐκέλευον. The irony of ὀνάμην τοῦ παρόντος would be manifest to the audience, who were aware of Hecuba's intended vengeance.

1000. ὦ φιληθεῖς, cf. I. T. 983 ἀλλ' ὦ φιληθεῖς'.

ἐμοὶ φιλεῖ, the dative of the agent after a passive verb is rare, except with perfect and pluperfect tenses: cf. Hadley Gr. Gr. § 769.

ἔστ'...χρυσοῦ κατώρυχες (1002): an example of the so-called *Schema Pindaricum*, in which a singular verb is joined with a masc. or fem. plural subject: the verb always stands first: cf. Plat. Gorg. 500 D ἔστι τοῦτω διττῷ τῷ βίῳ: Euthyd. 302 C ἔστι γὰρ ἐμοιγε καὶ βωμοί: Hes.

Theog. 825 ἦν ἑκατὸν κεφαλαί: Soph. Tr. 520 ἦν δ' ἀμφίπλεκτοι κλίμακες: Ion 1146 ἐνὴν τοιαῖδ' ὕφαι: Pind. fr. 45. 16 τότε βάλλεται ἰων φόβαι, and Gildersleeve's n. on Ol. xi. 6. The use of the plural is, as it were, an afterthought in a sentence, which commenced with a singular verb.

1002. κατώρυχες, excavated chambers, such as that in which Antigone was immured: cf. Soph. Ant. 774 κρύψω (says Creon) πετρῶδει ζῶσαν ἐν κατώρυχι.

1008. 'Αθάνας 'Ιλιάς στέγαι. Subterranean treasure-houses of the goddess: the so-called Treasury of Atreus at Mycenae was cut in the side of a hill, projecting but little above the level of the ground, and resembled no doubt a κατώρυξ, such as is described as a treasure-house here, but as a tomb in Soph. quoted above. The domed building at Mycenae is now recognized as a tomb: the rich offerings buried along with a deceased chieftain would make tomb and treasure-house almost synonymous.

1015. 'But where?' asks Polymestor, 'this before us (αἶδ' corresponds to ταῖσδε in 1014) is the circuit of harbourage of the Greeks.' He points to the naval camp, the στέγαι, which form the background of the scene: cf. n. on 59 supra. It seems improbable to P. that the captives should be able to conceal treasure in the actual encampment of their lords.

1017. ἀρσένων ἐρημία, cf. Bacch. 875 (of the escaped hind) ἡδομένα βροτῶν ἐρημίαῖς. A guilty conscience makes Polymestor suspicious. ἐρημία, supr. 981, is used in a slightly different sense.

1020. νεῶν λῦσαι πόδα οἴκαδε, 'to loosen the sheets in the wind for a homeward voyage.' The πόδες were the ropes of the lower extremity of the sail: in supr. 940 the very similar expression νόστιμον ναῦς ἐκίνησεν πόδα seems to be metaphorical: cf. n. there. Also cf. supr. 98 n.

1021. ὦν σε δεῖ; cf. for the constr. Aesch. Prom. 86 αὐτὸν γάρ σε δεῖ Προμηθεύς: H. F. 1170: Hipp. 490 οὐ λόγων εὐσχημόνων | δεῖ σ', ἀλλὰ τάνδρος. The spectators again would recognize the bitter irony of these lines.

1025. ἄντλον. Elmsley on Heracl. 169 says that ἄντλος here = πέλαιος, 'by a misuse of language': I can find no parallel to such a meaning, while the use of ἀντλεῖν and the like, both literal and metaphorical, demands that ἄντλος should be the bilge-water, *sentina*, which gathers in the hold of a vessel, or else the hold of the vessel itself: the latter is the meaning in Od. xii. 410 ἰστὸς δ' ὀπίσω πέσεν,

ὄπλα τε πάντα | εἰς ἀντλον κατέχυνθ', from which passage we can see that the ἀντλος was open: in Od. xv. 479 we have a case of a person meeting her death by falling into it, τὴν μὲν ἔπειτα γυναῖκα βάλλ' Ἀρτεμις ἰοχέαιρα · | ἀντλῳ δ' ἐνδούπησε πεσοῦσ' ὥς εἰναλίη κῆξ. Accordingly, although ἀλόμενον does not seem the most natural word perhaps to be applied to the ship's bilge, still taking it as = 'from which there is no escape,' we may translate, 'like to one falling into the bilge, whence is no escape, so shalt thou fall headlong from thy heart's desire, having wrought the destruction of thy life.' λέχριος is properly 'aslant'; cf. Med. 1168 (of Medea's victim) χροῖαν γὰρ ἀλλάξασα λεχρία πάλιν | χωρεῖ τρέμουσα κῶλα κ.τ.λ. ἐκπεσεῖ φίλ. καρδίας, 'thou shalt be cheated of thy cherished desire': cf. Thuc. viii. 81 ἵνα τῶν ὑπαρχουσῶν ἐλπιδῶν ἐκπίπτειεν: and for καρδία in this sense, Soph. Ant. 1105 καρδίας τ' ἐξίσταμαι, 'I resign my cherished resolve.' Polymestor's cherished desire is the treasure, by the prospect of which Hecuba has decoyed him. Finally ἀμέρδω never = to lose, but always to take away, rob: so we must regard P. as sacrificing his life to his passion: some would translate, 'thou shalt lose dear life (καρδίας), thou, who hast taken away life (namely Polydorus)': nor is this impossible, though γε would then be expected with ἀμέρσας.

1029. Lit. 'for where liability to retributive justice and to the gods coincides, there is an overwhelming curse,' i.e. the man, on whom the wrath of both falls, is doomed. For συμπίπτει, cf. supr. 966, 846.

1032. ὁδοῦ τῆσδ' ἐλπίς, Way turns, 'it shall mock thee, thy way-faring's hope,' i.e. your hope of gain.

1034. ἀπολέμω, i.e. by a woman's hand. λείψεις βίον, the chorus do not of course know the precise nature of Hecuba's intended vengeance, and imagine death will be his penalty.

1035. The agonized cries of Polymestor are heard within the tent: in accordance with the practice of the Attic stage, scenes of violence are not enacted in the sight of the audience, though the cries of the victims are permitted to be heard: cf. Aesch. Ag. 1343, 1345 where the dying Agamemnon's voice is heard, ὦμοι, πέπληγμαι καιρίαν πληγὴν ἔσω..... ὦμοι μάλ' αὖθις, δευτέραν πεπληγμένος. In that passage, as here, the chorus divides into two groups, or ἡμιχόρια, the leaders of which speak on behalf of their companions. Compare too El. 1165: Aesch. Cho. 869: Soph. El. 1404.

1037. ὦμοι...σφαγῆς, cf. Thompson Gr. Synt. § 101, n. 1.

1039. ἀλλ' οὔτι μὴ φύγητε, 'assuredly ye shall not escape':

cf. Thompson Gr. Syut. § 302, who quotes many examples. (The beginner should read §§ 301, 302.)

1040. Cf. infr. 1174, where P. gives an account of what happened, ἄπαντ' ἐρευνῶν τοῖχον ὥς κυνηγέτης | βάλλων ἀράσσω: what the βέλος of the next line may be, is not a matter of much concern: it may have been the lance mentioned in 1155, or it may only be the hand itself (Paley): the scholiast apparently thought that P. *threw stones*.

1042. ἀκμή = καιρός, it is 'high time': cf. Aesch. Pers. 407 κούκέτ' ἦν μέλλειν ἀκμή: Soph. El. 1338 ἀπηλλάχθαι δ' ἀκμή.

1044. ἐκβάλλων πύλας, 'breaking open the doors': cf. Or. 1473 δόμων θύρετρα καὶ σταθμούς | μοχλοῖσιν ἐκβαλόντες.

1046. οὐ παίδας ὄψει ζῶντας, a double taunt: 'you will not see them, since you are blind: nor alive, for they are dead.'

1047. ἧ γὰρ *mirantis est*: so infr. 1124. 'Hast thou indeed brought low the Thracian, and hast thou the upper hand of thy false friend?'

1050. τυφλῷ ποδί. Porson illustrates Eurip.'s fondness for this phrase from Phoen. 834, 1549, 1616, 1708. παραφόρῳ π., 'frenzied steps.'

1052. σὺν ταῖς δ. Τρ., 'with the help of,' as in the common phrase σὺν θεῷ. As regards the spelling, ξύν is the old Attic form, invariable in inscriptions up to about 416 B.C. (Rutherford, N. P. p. 24, n. 2): after that date, it rapidly gave way to σύν, but the preposition itself became rare, being supplanted by μετά with the genitive.

1055. ῥέοντι θυμῷ, 'raging with flood of fury': cf. Homer's description of Diomed, Il. v. 87 θῦνε γὰρ ἄμ πεδίον ποταμῷ πλήθοντι εἰκῶς | χειμάρρῳ κ.τ.λ.: Ar. Eq. 526 εἶτα Κρατίνου μεμνημένος, ὃς πολλῷ βεύσας ποτ' ἐπαλνῷ | διὰ τῶν ἀφελῶν πεδίων ἔρρει.

1056. The rhythm of the following passage is mainly dochmiac, expressing strong excitement.

1057. πᾷ κέλσω; lit. 'into what harbour can I put?' For this metaphorical use, cf. Hipp. 140 θανάτου θέλουσιν | κέλσαι ποτὶ τέρμα δύστανον. Aesch. Prom. 183.

1058. Polymestor likens himself to a wild beast on the track of its quarry; groping his way with outstretched hands, his gait resembles that of a four-footed animal, but I think we need not go so far as the scholiast, and assume that he enters the stage on hands and feet: for the text, cf. crit. not. Lit. 'planting the tread of a four-footed beast of the mountains, following on their track (κατ' ἵχνος), in which direction (πολεῖν ἐπὶ χεῖρα), this or that, am I to direct my shifting path (ἐξαλλάξω)?'

ὄρεστέρον, a poet. equivalent of ὄρεινός, as ἀγρότερος of ἀγριος.

1059. ποίαν ἐπὶ χεῖρα, 'in which direction?' cf. Cycl. 680 ποτέρας τῆς χειρός; and the common phrases ἐπὶ δεξιᾷ and the like.

1061. ἐξαλλάξω implies a shifting or changing about: cf. Xen. Cyn. x. 7 ἵνα εἰς τὰς ἄρκυς ποιῇται τὸν δρόμον μὴ ἐξαλλάττων.

1062. ἀνδροφόνους, cf. supr. 886.

1064. τάλαιναι, 'audacious': so τλήμων, Soph. El. 439 εἰ μὴ τλημονεστάτη γυνή | πασῶν ἐβλαστε (Clytaemnestra), τάσδε δυσμενεῖς χοᾶς | οὐκ ἂν ποθ', ὃν γ' ἐκτεινε, τῷδ' ἐπέστεφε.

1066. ποῖ καί, cf. supr. 515 n.: lit. 'in flight to which of the recesses,' i.e. 'whither have they fled, and are cowering in fear of me?'

ποῖ μυχῶν, like ποῦ γῆς; ποῦ φρενῶν; cf. Soph. El. 1174 ποῖ λόγων ἔλθω; Thompson Gr. Synt. p. 85. For the accus. after πτώσω, cf. Il. xx. 426 οὐδ' ἂν ἔτι δὴν | ἀλλήλους πτώσοιμεν. Od. xxii. 304: supr. 812 n.

1068. τυφλὸν φέγγος, 'the blinded light': cf. supr. 1035 τυφλοῦμαι φέγγος. For instances of *oxymoron*, cf. Thompson Gr. Synt. § 343.

1070. κρυπτὰν βάσιν, 'stealthy footsteps.'

1071. πόδ' ἐπάξας, lit. 'darting forth my foot against them,' i.e. rushing upon them. For the transitive force of ἐπάξας, cf. Soph. Aj. 40 καὶ πρὸς τί δυσλόγιστον ᾧδ' ἤξεν χεῖρα; and Jebb's n. He quotes in support Or. 1429 αἶσαν ἄσσων: Bacch. 145. Others take ἐπάξας as intrans., and compare βαλνείν πόδα, on which construction, cf. supr. 53 n.

1072. σαρκῶν, 'flesh.' In the older writers the plural is usual, the singular being employed of some one particular muscle, e.g. Od. xix. 450. For the sentiment, cf. Il. xxii. 346 (Achilles' speech to Hector) αἶ γάρ πως αὐτόν με μένος καὶ θυμὸς ἀνείη | ὦμ' ἀποταμνόμενον κρέα ἔδμεναι.

1074. ἀρνύμενος λῶβαν must mean 'achieving their dishonour': ἀρνυμαι is a poet. word = win, gain (honour), and the mutilation (the special form of insult connoted by both λύμη and λώβη: infr. 1098) of his enemies P. regards as a prize.

1077. βάκχαις Ἄιδου, 'hell's frenzied handmaids': cf. H. F. 1119 εἰ μηκέθ' Ἄιδου βάκχος εἰ, φράσαιμεν ἄν. διαμοιρᾶσαι, supr. 716. The children are dead, but he fears lest, Pentheus-like, they be torn in pieces.

1079. ἐκβολάν. ἐκβάλλειν is used specially of children, cf. Ion 964 σοὶ δ' ἐς τί δόξ' εἰσῆλθεν ἐκβαλεῖν τέκνον; It was in the power of the father to say whether the child was to be reared or exposed: probably the

ἀμφιδρόμα, or carrying of the child round the hearth on the seventh day after birth, was a token of the intention to rear the child as a member of the family. In Thebes only was the exposure of children forbidden. ἐκβολή here of course has not its strict meaning, but the casting out on the hillside of the Thracian's children suggests the analogous exposure, which was practised in Greece on new-born babes.

1081. ναῦς ὅπως, 'ship-like': cf. supr. 398: 'girding up my flax-woven robe, like a barque (brailing up its sails) with the ship-tackle, speeding to the lair of death, guardian of my children from despoite.' The figure is somewhat quaint, and a violent change from the wild beast metaphor, which is kept up throughout, and to which κολταν in the last line is still adapted.

1086. Cf. Aesch. Cho. 313 δρᾶσαντι παθεῖν, τριγέρων μῦθος τάδε φωνεῖ.

1088. ὦ, invoking aid: cf. Hipp. 884: Soph. Tr. 221: Phil. 736.

1089. λογχοφόρον. λόγχη was a cavalry lance, and therefore suited to the εὐκκρον γένος of the Thracians. εὐκκρον, cf. supr. 9 n.

1090. Ἄρει κάτοχον, 'possessed by,' 'subject to': cf. Soph. Tr. 978 ὕπνῳ κάτοχον.

1092. ἀντῶ, Aesch., Eurip., but never Soph.

1094. ἥ οὐδέϊς, ἥ coalesces with οὐ.

1100. ἀμπτάμενος ὑψιπέτης should be taken together.

1101. Storms were associated with both these constellations, which are visible during the hottest period of the year, cf. Hes. Op. 607 εὐτ' ἂν δ' Ὀρίων καὶ Ζεῖριος ἐς μέσον ἔλθῃ | οὐρανόν. The baleful influence of Sirius, the dog-star, was proverbial. Cf. Hom. Il. xxii. 25, where Achilles, bright and deadly, rushing over the plain, is likened to a star ὅς ῥά τ' ὀπώρας εἶσι, ἀρίζηλοι δέ οἱ αὐγαί | φαίνονται πολλοῖσι μετ' ἀστράσι νυκτὸς ἀμολγῶ, | ὃν τε κύν' Ὀρίωνος ἐπὶ κλησιν καλέουσιν· | λαμπρότατος μὲν ὃ γ' ἐστί, κακὸν δέ τε σῆμα τέτυκται, | καὶ τε φέρει πολλὸν πυρετὸν δειλοῖσι βροτοῖσιν. Sirius was the dog of the hunter Orion.

1107. ξυγγνώσθ' = ξυγγνωστά ἐστί, cf. Med. 491 ξυγγνώστ' ἂν ἦν σοι, ib. 703: for the plur. cf. Hadley Gr. Gr. § 635. The chorus hint that suicide offers a ready and pardonable escape.

κρείσσον' ἢ φέρειν κακά, cf. Soph. O. T. 1293 τὸ γὰρ νόσημα μείζον ἢ φέρειν. The usual construction would be κρείσσον' ἢ ὡς or ἢ ὥστε: cf. Xen. An. iii. 5. 17 φοβοῦμαι μὴ τι μείζον ἢ ὥστε φέρειν δύνασθαι ξυμβῆ. κρείσσον' ἢ κατὰ with the accus. of a noun is a variation of this construction.

1109. Agamemnon appears on the scene, and, to judge from his elaborate opening, has 'conned his part.'

οὐ γὰρ ἦσυχος λέλακ', cf. supr. 1068 n. λέλακ', cf. supr. 678 n.

1110. πέτρας ὀρείας παῖς... Ἠχώ, 'Echo, child of the mountain rock': cf. the Irish *mac-alla*, son of the rock. I am not aware that Echo is personified by any poet before Euripides, who introduced her into his *Andromeda* (cf. fr. 118), and was laughed at for his pains by Aristophanes the following year (410 B.C.) in the *Thesmophoriazusae*: cf. 1008 sqq. where Mnesilochus, who has been bound by the women, is visited by Euripides in the character of Echo.

1112. ἦσμεν, poet. form for ἦδμεν or ἦδεμεν. Rutherford (N. P. p. 238) rejects in all cases the long penultimate, regarding ἦσμεν etc. as the true Attic forms. If we had not known that Troy was fallen, this clamour gave us cause for terror in earnest, i.e. would easily have terrified us: the expression φόβον παρέσχευ is equivalent to a potential indicative with ἄν: cf. Goodwin Synt. of Gr. M. and T. § 432. This case is parallel to the use of ἔδει, ὥφελλον, ἐβουλόμην, ἐμελλον (without ἄν) and an infin., instead of a past indic. tense with ἄν of the verb in the infinitive: cf. Thuc. iii. 74 ἡ πόλις ἐκινδύνευσε πᾶσα διαφθαρῆναι, εἰ ἄνεμος ἐπεγένετο.

1119. ἄρα, with εἶχεν = 'as it appears.'

1121. 'Hath wrought me this ruin: ruin, nay, this more than ruin.'

1124. τί λέξεις; cf. supr. 511 n. ἡ γὰρ, cf. supr. 1047 n.

1127. οὗτος, τί πάσχεις; 'you there, what ails you?' is a colloquial equivalent: cf. Soph. Aj. 71 οὗτος, σὲ τὸν τὰς αἰχμαλωτίδας χέρας | δεσμοῖς ἀπευθύνοντα προσμολεῖν καλῶ. Alc. 773 οὗτος, τί σεμνὸν καὶ πεφροντικὸς βλέπεις; Frequently with σύ, e.g. infr. 1280: or with proper names, Soph. Aj. 89 ὦ οὗτος, Αἴας, δεύτερόν σε προσκαλῶ.

1128. μαργῶσαν, 'raging mad': this verb is found in the participle only, and is confined to the tragedians.

1129. τὸ βάρβαρον. Ag. means the absence of that self-restraint, which was so precious to the Greek: cf. supr. 327 n. 'Let uncivilized brute force and passion give way to a civilized method of settling disputes by argument and arbitrament': cf. Med. 536 πρῶτον μὲν 'Ελλάδ' ἀντὶ βαρβάρου χθονὸς | γαῖαν κατοικεῖς, καὶ δίκην ἐπίστασαι, | νόμοις τε χρῆσθαι μὴ πρὸς ἰσχύος κράτος.

1132. Euripides delighted, as no doubt an audience of his contemporaries delighted too, in the transference to the stage of the methods and modes of thought of the δικαστήρια: argument and counter-argument, skilful appeals to self-interest, prejudice and passion, repre-

sented under the forms of a rhetoric, specious at all times, even if somewhat forced, were echoes of their daily life greatly to the taste of the quick-witted men of Athens: to the less intellectually interested audiences of to-day, melodrama, with elaborate reproductions of the sights of a great city, administers a corresponding delight. Quintil. (Inst. x. i. 68) says of Euripides, '*namque is et in sermone magis accedit oratorio generi, et sententiis densus, et in iis quae a sapientibus tradita sunt pene ipsis par, et in dicendo ac respondendo cuilibet eorum, qui fuerunt in foro deserti, comparandus.*' Cf. Ar. Ran. 774 (of Euripides' audience in Hades) οἱ δ' ἀκροόμενοι | τῶν ἀντιλογιῶν καὶ λογισμῶν καὶ στροφῶν | ὑπερεμάνησαν, κἀνόμισαν σοφώτατον. It is noticeable that Polymestor's attack (1132—1182) and Hecuba's defence (1189—1237) each take up 50 lines. For similar correspondences cf. Paley's preface to vol. ii. p. xvii.

1135. ὕποπτος ὧν δὴ Τρωικῆς ἀλώσεως, 'apprehensive, no doubt, of Troy's fall': ὕποπτος in this active sense is very rare; Thuc. uses τὸ ὕποπτον = 'suspicion,' i. 90: vi. 89. Similarly πιστός, Soph. O. C. 1031 ἀλλ' ἔσθ' ὅτῳ σὺ πιστός (relying) ὧν ἔδρας τάδε. (Cf. Jebb's n. ad loc. for further instances.)

1139. Τροίαν is more suited to ξυνοίκισι than to ἀθροίση, which means to 'muster.' συνοίκισις was the uniting under a central power of scattered districts or tribes: cf. Thuc. ii. 15. 2 ἐπειδὴ δὲ Θησεὺς ἐβασίλευσε...καταλύσας τῶν ἄλλων πόλεων τὰ τε βουλευτήρια καὶ τὰς ἀρχὰς ἐς τὴν νῦν πόλιν οὖσαν ξυνώκισε πάντας (of the συνοίκισις of Attica). Here the meaning is 'lest he should re-unite the scattered remnants of Troy, and muster its folk.' For the subj. after a secondary tense, cf. Goodwin, Synt. of Gr. M. and T. § 365. 'The subj. can also follow secondary tenses to retain the mood in which the object of the fear originally occurred to the mind': cf. Xen. Symp. ii. 11 οἱ θεώμενοι ἐφοβοῦντο μή τι πάθῃ.

1141. ἄρειαν, the construction lapses into the ordinary optative after a verb in a secondary tense.

1144. ἐν ᾧπερ, the antecedent is the idea conveyed in the sentence γέλτοισιν δ' εἶη κακὸν Τρώων. Eurip. was in accord with Athenian feeling in making Polymestor ground his excuse ultimately on self-interest: for, if we may believe Thucydides, the average Athenian would admit no other spring of action as credible: cf. iii. 43. 2 μόνην τε πόλιν διὰ τὰς περιβολὰς εὖ ποιῆσαι ἐκ τοῦ προφανοῦς μὴ ἐξαπατήσαντα ἀδύνατον· ὁ γὰρ διδοὺς φανερώς τι ἀγαθὸν ἀνθυποπτεύεται ἀφανῶς πῃ πλέον ἔξειν. These words are supposed to have been spoken about two years before

the production of the Hecuba. This explains P.'s apparent incivility in hinting to Ag. that the Greeks were unwelcome neighbours.

1150. κάμψας γόνυ, cf. Soph. O. C. 19 οὐ κῶλα κάμψον τοῦδ' ἐπ' ἀξέστον πέτρου.

1153. κερκίς, lit. = 'shuttle': here 'the production of the shuttle,' a robe: similar is the use of πόνος to denote what is 'produced by labour,' e.g. Or. 1570 ῥήξας παλαιὰ γέῃσα (coping), τεκτόνων πόνον. Aesch. Ag. 54 ὀρταλίχων πόνον (nestlings).

The Edones were an important Thracian tribe, who dwelt on the east or left bank of the Strymon: Amphipolis and Eion were in their territory. Here, as frequently in Greek and Latin poetry, the name is used to signify Thracian generally.

1154. πέπλους. This word signifies a long, full robe, and is rarely used except of women's garments: it is however found sometimes of the ample dress of βάρβαροι, cf. Aesch. Pers. 468. Soph. in the Trach. uses it four times of a man's robe, but Jebb (on 602) regards it as in these cases a 'general word for a stately garment.'

1155. κάμακα, properly a 'pole': for vines, Il. xviii. 563: of a spear-shaft, Aesch. Ag. 66: so here.

1156. διπτ. στολ., i.e. both of spear and cloak.

1157. ἐκπαγλούμεναι: this verb, like μαργᾶν (supr. 1128), is only found in the participle; an Ionic survival, Rutherford N. P. p. 14.

1159. γένοιοντο. 'A neuter plural subject denoting persons may have a verb in the plural.' Hadley Gr. Gr. § 604 a. It is noticeable that there is no caesura in this line.

διαδοχαῖς ἀμείβονσαι χεροῖν, lit. 'passing them on by successions of hands.'

1160. πῶς δοκεῖς; parenthetic: a colloquialism, not used either by Soph. or Aesch.: cf. Hipp. 446 τοῦτον λαβοῦσα, πῶς δοκεῖς; καθύβρισεν. I. A. 1590 κἀν τῷδε Κάλχας πῶς δοκεῖς; χαίρων ἔφη. Ar. Ach. 24. ἐκ, 'after.'

1162. αἱ δέ, the corresponding αἱ μὲν must be understood before κεντοῦσι.

1163. εἶχον, 'held down.' He was on a κλίνη, or large couch. For the form of conditional sentence, εἰ ἐξανιστατήν—εἶχον, cf. Hadley Gr. Gr. § 894.

1167. οὐδὲν ἤνουν, 'I could do nothing': cf. Andr. 1133 ἀλλ' οὐδὲν ἤνεν: Her. ix. 66 οὐδὲν ἤνυε. Poets prefer ἀνύω, prose writers ἀνύτω.

1168. πῆμα πῆματος πλείον, 'outrage than all outrage worse,'

Way. The editors compare Aesch. Ag. 864 *κακοῦ κάκιον ἄλλο πῆμα*. *πῆμα* in apposition to the sense of *δελν' ἐξεργάσαντο*.

1171. *κεντοῦσιν*, cf. *supr.* 1162.

1172. *ἐκ δὲ πηδήσας* = *ἐκπηδήσας δέ*. Tmesis is rare in Attic Greek, and is a survival from the time when prepositions were adverbs merely, defining or strengthening the force of case-endings, or modifying the meaning of verbs: cf. Thompson's *Gr. Syut.* § 249.

1173. *θῆρ ὧς* recurs to the metaphor of *supr.* 1058. The wild beast turns upon the hounds, though in *κύνας* is further implied the reproach, which the word so often conveys in Homer, especially when used of women.

1174. *ὧς κυνηγέτης*. A good instance of Euripides' quickness of mind, which, while it leads him to metaphor, renders him incapable of sustaining a simile. The hunted quarry, turning on his pursuers, of the previous line, becomes the hunter of this: the *θῆρ* becomes the *κυνηγέτης*.

κυνηγέτης is the regular form in Prose, but *κυναγός* (like *δαρός*, *ἐκατι*, *δπαδός* and others quoted by Porson on Or. 26) is invariable in Poetry. The co-existence of these forms, says Rutherford (*N. P.* p. 496), shows that the Athenians at first accepted Doric forms relating to the arts of which the Dorians were the acknowledged masters, but subsequently brought these forms into harmony with the laws of their own language: but this dictum does not seem to account for all the instances, though the occurrence of both forms in Eur. proves the mixed character of tragic diction.

1175. *βάλλων ἀράσσω*, cf. *supr.* 1171 *κεντοῦσιν αἰμάσσουσιν*: 70 *δελμασι φάσμασιν*. The asyndeton expresses agitation.

σπεύδων χάριν τὴν σὴν, 'busying myself in thy interests.' *σπεύδων* is intrans.; for *χάριν*, cf. *supr.* 874 n.

1177 sqq. It is from the consideration of detached invectives against women, like the present, without regard either to the context, or the character in whose mouth they are placed, that the unjust estimate, which brands Eurip. as a hater of the female sex, arises. To refute so baseless an estimate serious argument is not required: the mere statement that it was Eurip. who created Alcestis, Iphigenia, Macaria and Polyxena suffices. A critic who, in this play, would reject the evidence of Polyxena's character, and would prefer to base his view of the poet's meaning on the mad ravings of a barbarian, would not be entitled to a hearing. It is to Euripides' sympathy with women, to his recognition of their capacity both for good and ill, to his desire to open

a wider sphere of influence to that sex, of which even Pericles could say it was the chiefest credit never to be spoken of, that we owe a gallery of female characters, unsurpassed till Shakspeare came.

1178. εἰ τις γυναῖκας τῶν πρὶν ἔρρηκεν κακῶς, as, for instance, Simonides of Amorgus, who classed women, according to their characteristics, as partaking of the natures of the sow, the fox, the bitch, the earth, the sea, the ass, the cat, the mare, the ape, in most uncomplimentary terms: though at last he admits the existence of a bee-like class, whose virtues he celebrates unstintingly in a very beautiful passage (vii. 83—93, Bergk's Anthol. Gr., ed. Hiller).

1179. λέγων ἔστιν, the so-called *Schema Chalcidiacum* is another instance of old-Ionic survivals in tragic diction: cf. Her. iii. 99 ἀπαρνευόμενος ἔστι: ix. 51 ἔστι ἀπέχουσα: iii. 64 ἀπολωλεκῶς εἶη: Aesch. Ag. 1178 ἔσται δεδορκῶς: Eur. Cycl. 381 ἦτε πάσχοντες.

1180. συντεμών, sc. λόγον, which is easily supplied from λόγους, 1177: ἅπαντα ταῦτα is governed by φράσω. For συντέμνειν = 'cut an account short,' cf. Tro. 441 ὡς δὲ συντέμω | ζῶν εἰς Ἑλιδην. Ar. Thesm. 178.

1181. He speaks of them as though they were a breed of monsters.

1182. ὁ αἰεὶ ξυντυχῶν, cf. ὁ αἰεὶ βασιλεύων, 'the king for the time being.' Thuc. iv. 68. 1 ἔπειτα δὲ καὶ τῶν Ἀθηναίων ἤδη ὁ αἰεὶ ἐντὸς γιγνόμενος (each Athenian as he got inside) χωρεῖ ἐπὶ τὸ τεῖχος. iii. 38. 5 δοῦλοι δυντες τῶν αἰεὶ ἀτόπων (the paradox of the moment).

1183. 'Be not insolent, nor, by reason of thine own ill-experience, condemn thus sweepingly the whole race of women': cf. fr. 658 οὔτις δὲ πάσας συντιθεῖς ψέγει λόγῳ | γυναῖκας ἐξῆς, σκαιὸς ἔστι κοῦ σοφός. | πολλῶν γὰρ οὐσῶν τὴν μὲν εὐρήσεις κακὴν, | τὴν δ' ὥσπερ αὕτη λῆμ' ἔχουσαν εὐγενές.

1187. Hecuba, after a brief prefatory address to Agamemnon, deprecating the use of rhetoric in a bad cause, proceeds in lawyer-like fashion to expose the weak points and improbabilities of Polymestor's account.

οὐκ ἐχρῆν ἰσχύειν = εἰκότως οὐκ ἂν ἴσχυεν: so infr. 1189 εἰδὲ λέγειν = εἰκότως ἂν ἔλεγεν: cf. Goodwin Synt. of Gr. M. and T. §§ 415, 416.

1188. This platitude, so frequently used by Eurip., is somewhat inconsistent with Hecuba's words (supr. 817 sqq.), where she laments her lack of πειθῶ: but we must bear in mind that this speech is a forensic display, and conforms to the rules of the courts, where a brief προοίμιον, either to conciliate feeling in the speaker's favour, or to

minimise the effect of a powerful speech of an opponent, was usual: cf. a similar opening in Hipp. 983 sqq.

1189. Cf. Hipp. 928 *χρῆν*.....*δισσάς τε φωνὰς πάντας ἀνθρώπους ἔχειν*, | *τὴν μὲν δίκαιαν, τὴν δ' ὅπως ἐτύγχανε*, | *ὥς ἡ φρονούσα τᾶδικ' ἐξηλέγχετο* | *πρὸς τῆς δικαίας, κοῦκ ἂν ἡπατώμεθα*. *εἴτε χρήστ' ἔδρασε*, sc. *τις*, which is easily supplied from *ἀνθρώποισιν* above: cf. Andr. 421 *οἰκτρὰ γὰρ τὰ δυστυχῇ* | *βροτοῖς ἅπασι, κἂν θυραῖος ὦν κυρῇ*.

1190. *σαθροῦς*, 'unsound.' The word is used of the false ring of a cracked vessel, and is therefore very appropriately applied to deceptive rhetoric, which ought not to have the ring of truth.

1191. *καὶ μὴ δύνασθαι τᾶδικ' εὖ λέγειν ποτέ*. Cf. Thuc. iii. 42. 2 *βουλόμενός τι αἰσχρὸν πεῖσαι, εὖ μὲν εἰπεῖν οὐκ ἂν ἡγείται περὶ τοῦ μὴ καλοῦ δύνασθαι*.

1192. *οἱ τὰδ' ἡκριβωκότες*, those who have reduced to a system the methods of giving fair names to foul deeds.

1193. The meaning is, 'they cannot keep up the appearance of honesty all through, but are found out and ruined.'

1195. *τὸ μὲν σὸν*, 'the share of my speech addressed directly to you.' *φροίμοις*, 'at the outset.' *προοίμιον* was the technical name for the opening of a speech (*προοιμιάσασθαι πρὸς εἰθνοίαν* says the handbook (*τέχνη*) of Theodectes: *exordiri ita ut eum qui audiat benevolumi nobis faciamus et docilem et attentum*, Cic. de Or. ii. 19. 80). The other parts were the *διήγησις*, *πίστεις*, *ἐπίλογος*. Hecuba again turns to Agamemnon in the *ἐπίλογος*, l. 1232.

1197. *πόνον ἀπαλλάσσω διπλοῦν*, 'ridding them of the repetition of their labours,' i.e. a second expedition to Troy, in the event of its restoration by Polydorus: cf. *supr.* 1139.

1199. Was there any feeling in Athens that the Thracian alliance of 431 had been of but small advantage?

1201. *τίνα σπεύδων χάριν*, cf. *supr.* 1175 *σπεύδων χάριν τὴν σὴν*. It may be an unintentional echo, or it may be scornful repetition: the emphasis added by *καί* (cf. *supr.* 515 n.) is in favour of the latter view.

1202. *κηδεύων τινά*, 'with the hope of entering a Greek family by marriage?' *κηδεύειν* is to 'contract a marriage,' of the bridegroom usually (but cf. Med. 888, where in bitter irony Medea regards herself as *κηδεύουσα*, a marriage connection of, her rival, Jason's new wife), with special reference to the relations of his wife. Cf. Hipp. 634 *κηδεύσας καλοῖς γαμβροῖσι*, 'having married into a good family.' The verb here is transitive; lit. 'about to make some one a relation by marriage?'

1204. σῆς, emphatic. The subject to *ἐμελλον* is οἱ Ἕλληνες.

1205. τίνα δοκεῖς πείσειν τάδε; 'whom think you you will persuade of this?' For the double accus., cf. Soph. O. C. 797 ἄλλ' οἶδα γάρ σε ταῦτα μὴ πείθων, ἴθι.

1206. εἰ βούλοιο τάληθῇ λέγειν, the apodosis understood is 'you would admit.'

1207. κέρδη τὰ σά, 'thy hope of gain': cf. Aesch. Eum. 704 κερδῶν ἄδικτον τοῦτο βουλευτήριον (of the court of Areopagus): Soph. Ant. 222 ἄνδρας τὸ κέρδος πολλάκις διώλεσεν.

1208. ἐπεὶ δίδαξον, 'for (if what I say is not true), tell me this, why etc.?' Cf. Soph. O. T. 390 ἐπεὶ, φέρ' εἰπέ, ποῦ σὺ μάντις εἰ σαφής; O. C. 969 ἐπεὶ δίδαξον... πῶς ἂν δικαίως κ.τ.λ.; El. 351.

The next two lines are almost a repetition of *supr.* 16—18.

1211. τί δ' repeats in a slightly different form the πῶς of l. 1208, the interrogative effect of which may be supposed to be dulled by the long sentence ὅτ' ἠτύχει—δόρυ. 'Why was it, I say (δέ)?'

χάριν θέσθαι, for the phrase, cf. El. 61 ἐξέβαλέ μ' ὄκων, χάριτα τιθεμένη πόσει: Ion 1104: Bacch. 721.

1215. ἐσήμην', absolute, as frequently in Trag.: cf. Aesch. Ag. 497, 293 ἐκὰς δὲ φρυκτοῦ φῶς ἐπ' Εὐρίπου ῥοὰς | Μεσσαπίου φύλαξι σημαίνει μολόν. The latter passage probably suggested the word to Euripides, who regards Troy's burning city as the first of the chain of beacons, that spread the news of the triumph of the Greeks; 'and with its smoke the city gave the beacon-signal of its fall at the foeman's hand.'

1216. κατέκτας, a simple non-thematic aorist: cf. Monro Hom. Gr. § 13: Bacch. 1289 κατέκτας: Aesch. Eum. 460 κατέκτα (both in senarii): H. F. 424 ἔκτα (lyric): Soph. Tr. 38 ἔκτα, the only passage of Tragedy where this aorist of the simple verb occurs in senarii.

1218. χρῆν σε δοῦναι φέροντα, 'you ought to have taken and given etc.' i.e. during the siege of Troy.

1221. ἀπέξενωμένοις, cf. Soph. El. 777 φυγὰς ἀπέξενούτο.

1223. τολμᾶς, 'canst bring thyself.' Cf. Med. 590 ἦτις οὐδὲ νῦν | τολμᾶς μεθεῖναι καρδίας μέγαν χόλον. ἔχων καρτερεῖς, 'persistent in keeping': cf. I. T. 1395 οἱ δ' ἐκαρτέρουν | πρὸς κῦμα λακτίζοντες.

1224. καὶ μὲν, introducing a fresh objection. τρέφων = εἰ ἔτρεφες: παῖδα is out of its place: τρέφων τὸν ἐμὸν παῖδα, ὥς σε χρῆν τρ. is the order.

1226. 'Tis in adversity the good man's friendship shines the clearest: prosperity of itself always (ἐκαστ' = in each instance) has friends.' These two lines explain and amplify καλὸν κλέος 1225.

1228. δ δ', Polydorus.

1230. νῦν δ', 'as matters stand now.'

οὔτε...τε, cf. Soph. O. C. 1397 οὔτε ταῖς παρελθούσαις ὁδοῖς | ξυνή-
δομαί σου, νῦν τ' ἴθ' ὡς τάχος πάλιν: τε...οὔτε is not found.

1233. κακὸς φανεῖ, cf. supr. 1217 φανῆς κακός: supr. 527 n.

1234. εὐσεβῆ and πιστὸν correspond in meaning to ὅσιον and δίκαιον in the next line: for the distinction, cf. supr. 791 n.

1236. 'We shall say that thou hast delight in the wicked, being even such an one thyself.' By the use of τοιοῦτον Hecuba avoids calling her master κακός directly, and to this she alludes in the words δεσπ. δ' οὐ λοιδορῶ. So supr. 1233 she was careful to say κακὸς φανεῖ. There is a slightly generalizing force in the use of the plural δεσπότας, 'one who is in the position of my lord.'

1238. φεῦ φεῦ, expressing admiration: cf. Ar. Av. 1724 φεῦ φεῦ τῆς ὥρας, τοῦ κάλλους. Heracl. 535, 552.

1239. χρηστῶν ἀφορμὰς λόγων, 'a text for goodly discourse.' ἀφορμή is literally a 'starting-point.' For ἐνδίδωσ', cf. Ar. Eq. 847 λαβὴν (hold) γὰρ ἐνδέδωκας.

1243. οὔτ' ἐμὴν χάριν οὔτ' οὖν Ἀχαιῶν, 'neither for my sake, no, nor yet for that of the Greeks.' Cf. supr. 874 n.

1247. ῥάδιον, 'a light matter': cf. Hipp. 1441 μακρὰν δὲ λείπεις ῥαδίως ὁμιλίαν.

1249. μὴ ἀδικεῖν: for the synizesis, cf. Hipp. 997 φίλοις τε χρῆσθαι μὴ ἀδικεῖν πειρωμένοις. Cf. Hadley Gr. Gr. § 42, Jebb on Soph. O. T. 555.

πῶς φύγω; cf. Thompson Gr. Synt. § 132 c.

1252. γυναικός, the genit. is due to the comparative idea contained in ἡσώμενος.

1253. ὑφέξω δίκην τοῖς κακίοσιν, 'shall be held accountable to my inferiors,' Hecuba, to wit, who is a slave: cf. Or. 1649 δίκην ὑπόσχεσ αἵματος μητροκτόνου | Εὐμενίσσι τρισσαῖς.

1254. εἴπερ, 'if, as is the case,' i.e. 'since.'

1256. 'What then of me?' lit. 'what do you think I should do?'

παιδὸς, for the genit. cf. Thompson Gr. Synt. § 101.

1258. γάρ. 'Yes, for should I not rejoice at taking vengeance on you?'

1260. This line takes up the construction of l. 1258.

1261. μὲν οὖν corrects a previous statement as wrong or inadequate. Latin *immo vero*. Here ναυστολήσῃ is the word corrected, κρύψῃ being substituted for it. ἐκ καρχησίῳ, 'from the mast-head': so called

from its likeness to the cup of the same name. It was used as a look-out: cf. Rich's Dictionary of Antiq. s. v.

1263. Lit. 'thyself shalt ascend on thy feet by the mast.'

1265. Ovid's account is somewhat different (Met. xiii. 565 sqq.), *clade sui Thracum gens irritata tyranni | Troada (i.e. Hecuba) telorum lapidumque incessere iactu | coepit. at haec missum rauco cum murmure saxum | morsibus insequitur, rictuque in verba parato | lutravit, conata loqui. locus extat, et ex re | nomen habet.* Cicero says (Tusc. iii. 26) *Hecubam autem putant propter animi acerbitatem quandam et rabiem fingi in canem esse conversam.*

πύρσ' ἔχ. δέργ., 'with glaring bloodshot eyes.'

1267. The worship of Dionysus is closely connected in tradition with Thrace. It was in Thrace that King Lycurgus strove to bar the god's progress from Asia Greece-wards, paying for his impiety by a cruel death: in Thrace too, among the peaks of Rhodope, Dionysus had an oracle, to which reference is made in the next line (cf. Herod. vii. 111). The god was worshipped under the name of Sabazios (Ar. Vesp. 9, where the schol. notes *Σαβάξιον δὲ τὸν Διόνυσον οἱ Θράκες καλοῦσιν*).

For the dat. *Θρηξί*, cf. Or. 363 ὁ ναυτιλοισι μάντις.

1269. γάρ, 'no, for had he done so, never wouldst thou etc.'

1270. 'Shall I die, or shall I live to accomplish the days of my life as I am (i.e. a slave)?' This seems to me the best interpretation of the line. Irregularly, but quite intelligibly, *θανοῦσα* is put for *θανοῦμαι*, being attracted by *ζῶσα*, although the finite verb *ἐκπλήσω* (*βλῶν*) is not exactly suited to it. *ἐνθάδε*, 'in my present position,' i.e. a slave.

1272. 'Wilt thou say a name called after my changed shape, or what?' *ἦ τί* is parenthetic.

1273. *Κυνὸς σῆμα*, a promontory on the eastern coast of the Thracian Chersonese: cf. Thuc. viii. 102. *τέκμαρ*, 'a sign,' i.e. a landmark.

1276. *ἀπέπτυσ'*, cf. supr. 942 n. *αὐτῷ ταῦτα κ.τ.λ.*, equivalent to 'may your prognostications recoil on yourself': cf. Cycl. 270 A. *κακῶς παῖδες ἀπόλουνθ'*...B. *αὐτὸς ἔχε*.

1277. *ἡ τοῦδ' ἄλοχος*, Clytaemnestra. *οἰκουρὸς πικρά*, 'home-guardian to his sorrow': the meaning is that Clytaemnestra's government of Agamemnon's house during his absence was to be fatal to him, by reason of her connection with Aegisthus, and the consequent plot to murder her husband. For the phrase, cf. Hipp. 787 *πικρὸν τὸδ' οἰκούρημα δεσπότηις ἐμοῖς*.

1278. μήπω μανείη. 'μήπω *verecunde in votis pro μήποτε dicebant.*' Pflugk. Cf. Soph. El. 403 μήπω νοῦ τοσόνδ' εἶην κενή. Heracl. 359.

Τυνδαρίς παῖς, Clytaemnestra. It was to the madness of another Tyndarid, Helen, that the war and all its misery was due.

1280. οὗτος σύ, cf. supr. 1127 n. Agamemnon's anger is roused at the impertinence, as he regards it, of the frenzied Thracian. *μανναι* echoes Hecuba's *μανείη* of 1278.

1281. φόνια λουτρά refers to the bath in which Agamemnon was slain by Aegisthus and Clytaemnestra: cf. Aesch. Ag. 1129.

Those who had lost the power of seeing external objects were supposed to become endowed with extraordinary capacity for penetrating with the eye of the mind into the mysteries of the gods' will and of the future. Possibly for this reason, possibly too as a king of Thrace, the country whence had come the early seers, Orpheus Linus and the rest, the gift of prophecy is here given to the blind barbarian, whose general character, one is forced to admit, does not qualify him eminently to act as the mouthpiece of the gods. It is noticeable that in the Heracleidae Euripides gives a similar power to a similar character, Eurystheus, just before his death.

1283. 'Will ye not check his tongue?' to the attendants.

1284. ἐγκλήετ', sc. τὸ στόμα.

1285. νήσων, genit. depending on πον. Thompson Gr. Synt. p. 85.

ἐκβαλεῖτε, exposure on a desert island was no uncommon penalty: cf. Od. iii. 270 δὴ τότε τὸν μὲν αἰοιδὸν ἄγων ἐς νῆσον ἐρήμην | κάλλιπεν οἰωνοῖσιν ἔλωρ καὶ κύρμα γενέσθαι. The 'marooning' of Philoctetes naturally suggests itself as an instance of the use to which small rocky islands may be put: a use which recommended itself to the Romans at a later date, who found the Aegean a suitable retreat for many whose residence at Rome was regarded as undesirable: '*aude aliquid brevibus Gyaris vel carcere dignum, | si vis esse aliquid*' is Juvenal's cynical remark, i. 73 (where Prof. Mayor's note will satisfy the most curious).

1286. καὶ intensifies the force of *λαν*.

1287. 'Εκάβη, σὺ δ', cf. supr. 372 n.

1290. Cf. the last lines of Seneca's Troades, *repetite celeri maria captivæ gradu, | iam vela puppis laxat et classis movet.*

1291. εὐ δὲ τὰν δόμοις ἔχοντ' ἴδοιμεν. Notice the irony of these lines.

1294. δεσποσύνων μόχθων, cf. supr. 362 sqq. The captives pass from one scene of wretchedness to the experiences of another, yet untried: so one act in life's dreary tragedy closes.

NOTES ON THE TEXT.

THE MSS of Euripides may be divided into two families, representing two separate recensions: the first, to which the oldest extant MSS belong, contained 8 plays: Hecuba, Orestes, Phoenissae, Andromache, Hippolytus, Medea, Alcestis, Troades: also Rhesus, a play of doubtful authorship, once commonly ascribed to Euripides. No MSS which we have, with two exceptions, contain all the eight, the Troades being most frequently omitted. The following table will make this clear:

A.	Marcianus 471	contains Hec. Or. Phoen. Andr. Hipp.
B.	Vaticanus 909	„ Hec. Or. Phoen. Andr. Hipp. Med. Alc. Tro. (Rhes.)
C.	Hauniensis	„ Hec. Or. Phoen. Andr. Hipp. Med. Alc. Tro. (Khes.)
E.	Parisinus 2712	„ Hec. Or. Phoen. Andr. Hipp. Med.
F.	Marcianus 468	„ Hec. Or. Phoen. Med.
a.	Parisinus 2713	„ Hec. Phoen. Andr. Hipp. Med. Alc.
b.	Florentinus (Vossii)	„ Hec. Phoen. Andr. Hipp. Med. Alc. Tro. (Rhes.)
c.	Florentinus xxxi. 10	„ Hec. Or. Phoen. Andr. Hipp. Med. Alc. (Khes.)
d.	Florentinus xxxi. 15	„ Andr. Hipp. Med. Alc.

A is our best MS: it is of the xii century, and contains marginal scholia and interlinear glosses, and has been extensively corrected in green ink by a later hand. It is preserved in S. Mark's library at Venice. Besides the five plays of Eurip. it contains the works of the geographer Dionysius Periegetes.

B is of the xii or xiii century: the leaves containing Hec. 212—256, 712—1069 have been lost. It contains scholia and glosses and has been corrected by two hands at least, and is in the Vatican library at Rome.

C, at Copenhagen, is of small value, especially in Hec. Or. Phoen. It seems to be a corrupted copy of B.

E is of the xiii century, and contains Sophocles and Aristophanes, as well as the six plays of Euripides. Where the ink has faded it has been restored by a later hand, often well. It has very few scholia and glosses.

F, a manuscript of the xiii century, contains, besides Euripides, three plays of Aeschylus, six plays of Sophocles and the works of Oppian, and has suffered badly from ignorant annotators. It, like A, is in S. Mark's library at Venice.

The next four MSS Kirchhoff thinks are copies of a codex of the same class as the above, edited and emended by a Byzantine scholar of the xiii century according to the standards and canons of his time.

a, elegantly written but considerably damaged. It contains a life of Euripides, some remarks of Hephaestion on metre, and some lines on the Hecuba by Tzetzes. Prinz says that in the Hec. Or. Phoen. it is very close to A, and therefore of weight. Unfortunately lines 1—522 of the Hecuba are missing in the original, and have been supplied by later worthless hands. It is of the xiii century.

b is now lost, but once belonged to Isaac Voss, who has left a list of its variants. It is of little value.

c is a moth-eaten MS of the xiv century, and contains Sophocles' plays as well.

d, also of the xiv century, is in bad condition, and contains six comedies of Aristophanes as well as the four plays of Euripides.

A compendium for school use was made by a Byzantine scholar, containing Hec. Or. Phoen., and was very extensively used in the xiv and xv century; copies of it are preserved in large numbers: sometimes all three plays are found together, sometimes copies of the separate plays. These editions frequently have copious notes, but are of no independent value.

We now come to the second family of MSS, representing a different recension. MSS of this class contained the eighteen (or, counting the Rhesus, nineteen) extant plays of Euripides. Unfortunately we have only two copies of this edition.

L, Florentinus xxxii. 2, a MS of the xiv century, containing six plays of Sophocles, Hesiod, and all Euripides' extant plays except the Troades.

G and P together contain all the plays. They formed one MS, but by some chance the book was divided, and G was only discovered recently. P contains Andr. Med. Supp. Ion Iph. Aul. Iph. T. Hipp. Alc. Tro. Bacch. Cycl. (Rhes.) Heracl. (1—1003): also Soph. Ant.

OC. Tr. Phil. G contains Heracl. (1003—end) Herc. Hel. El. Hec. Or. Phoen. together with Soph. Aj. El. OT. The MS was probably of the xiv century.

The value of these MSS consists in the fact that, though themselves of not very early date, they are derived from an archetype older than the xiii century. This archetype itself had suffered from the hands of correctors and scholars, but as representing a different and independent recension of the text, it has provided us with a valuable means of checking the other edition, its very errors even sometimes serving to direct us to the true reading. A manuscript in the British Museum (Harleianus 5743) gives us fragments of the Alc., the Troades and Rhesus in this edition: and to the same family belongs the MS, from which the author of the Christus Patiens made his compilations. It seems to have contained Hec. Or. Hipp. Med. Tro. Bacch. (Rhes.).

13. ἦ. MSS ἦν, but the rule is ἦ *eram*, ἦν *erat*, at any rate for Aesch. Soph. and Eur.'s earlier plays.

76. The corruption in this line is of early date. In most MSS we find ἦν περὶ παιδός. δι' ὀνείρων | εἶδον γὰρ φοβερὰν ὄψιν ἔμαθον ἐδάην. The writer of G endeavoured to make sense by adding εἶδον after ὀνείρων, and beginning a new sentence with εἶδον γάρ. The source of error lies in the εἶδον γάρ, which was wrongly inserted here, having caught the copyist's eye in l. 90 infr. ὄψιν was either added as object to εἶδον, or was written against φοβερὰν to show to what noun the adjective referred: finally ἔμαθον was an interlinear gloss, explanatory of the rare word ἐδάην.

80. ἄγκυρ' ἀμῶν: so Meineke for ἄγκυρά τ' ἐμῶν. The rare word ἀμῶν was not understood by the copyist, who corrected, as he thought, ἄγκυρα μῶν into ἄγκυρά [τ' ἐ]μῶν. Other editors correct ἄγκυρ' ἐτ' ἐμῶν, but *facili lectioni praestat ardua*.

91. ἀνολκῶς. Porson for ἀνάγκη | ολκρῶς.

164. δαίμων νῶν. All the best MSS have δαίμωνων, which is not metrical. Musgrave proposed the reading in the text. Porson, thinking that a quotation in Dionysius, de compositione verborum (v. 105), illustrating the solemn effect of spondaic rhythm, refers to this passage, would read πολὺν ἢ ταύταν ἢ κελίαν | στείχω; πολὺν δὲ θ' ὀρμάσω; | ποῦ μολ τίς θεῶν | ἢ δαίμων ἐστὶν ἀρωγός;

224. ἐπέστη. I keep the reading of the MSS, though Nauck's ἐπέσται is generally accepted. ἐπιστάτης ἐπέσται is a jingle of sound merely, while ἐπιστάτης ἐπέστη is akin to such phrases as δραμεῖν δρόμον

and the like. Eur. is not careful to avoid unmeaning assonance, but it seems gratuitous to import it.

231. *κάγωγ' ἄρ'*, L. Dindorf for *κάγω γάρ*. For the force of *ἄρα*, cf. n. in commentary.

οὐ με χρῆν. MSS *οὐ μ' ἐχρῆν*. Cf. n. in commentary on 265.

246—250. The order in the text is that of the Byzantine editors: the MSS give 246, 249, 250, 247, 248. Wecklein would reject 247, 248 as a dittography of 245, 246.

274. *καὶ τῆσδε γραιῖας*. Valckenaer for *καὶ τῆσδε γεραιῖας* of the MSS: the latter is possible metrically; cf. supr. 63, where *γεραιῖας* is an anapaest.

279. *ταύτη γέγηθα κάπιλήθομαι κακῶν*, an importation from Or. 66, followed here till rejected by Hartung.

293. *λέγης*. Muretus for MSS *λέγη*.

312. *ἔλωλε*. E has *ἄπεστι*.

328. *τοὺς φίλους*. Prinz needlessly proposes *τοὺς φθιτούς*. The meaning of the text is, 'regard as friends those who are friends indeed,' i.e. benefactors. Prinz's alteration gives only a weak repetition of the next clause.

332. *πέφυκ' αἰέ*. G, and so Stobaeus quotes: *πεφυκέναι* is the reading of most of the MSS, though *πέφυκ' αἰέ* is sometimes given as a variant.

367. *ἐλευθέρων*. Blomfield for MSS *ἐλεύθερον*.

378. Omitted by Nauck.

397. G has *κεκτημένη*, which leads Prinz to adopt a conjecture (made in 1865) *οὐ γὰρ οἶσθα δεσπότας κεκτημένη*; This is very probable.

416. *με χρῆν*. MSS. *μ' ἐχρῆν*. Cf. supr. 231 crit. n.

425. *ἀθλία*. Markland for MSS *ἀθλίας*. A however gives *ἀθλιου*.

432. *κάρα πέπλους*. Kirchhoff for MSS *κάρα πέπλοις*.

441—443 are rejected by most editors, on very insufficient grounds, as it seems to me: see n. in commentary.

467. *θεᾶς ναίουσ'* is Nauck's brilliant emendation for *'Αθαναιας*.

469. The reading is doubtful. A has *ἄρα*, B *ἄρματα* corrected to *ἄρματι*. Paley reads *ζεύξομαι ἄρματι πώλους | ἐν δαιδαλέαισι κ.τ.λ.* and infr. 478 *τυφομένα δορὶληπτος | ὑπ' Ἀργεῖων κ.τ.λ.*, but with little support from good MSS.

481. The ordinary punctuation is *λιποῦσ' Ἀσίαν Εὐρώπας θεράπναν, ἀλλάξας* "Αἶδα θαλάμους. This is translated 'having left Asia the slave of Europe, etc.' This kind of personification does not seem to me to be in Euripides' style, and his use of the word *θεράπνα* (cf. n. in commentary) is against such an interpretation.

490. Nauck would expel this line.

528. αἶρει is recovered from *a*, which is a valuable MS from 523 onward. ἔρρει is the vulgate.

535. μου. The later MSS give μοι.

555, 6. The two following lines are rejected by nearly all editors. οἱ δ', ὡς τάχιστ' ἤκουσαν ὑστάτην ὄπα, | μεθῆκαν, οὐπερ καὶ μέγιστον ἦν κράτος.

559. A has λαγόνas, and one or two other good MSS; the rest have λαγόνος: Brunck proposed μέσas for the vulgate μέσον.

569. εὐσχήμws. With much hesitation I leave this barbarous looking adverb in the text. (The adj. seems to appear first in Dio Cassius: it is quoted in Etym. M.) A gives εὐσήμεws: *a* εὐσχήμws, and so ELG. Pliny (Ep. iv. 11) quotes εὐσχήμων, which Prinz accepts.

578. οὐ πέπλον οὐδὲ κόσμον. As supr. 574 mention was made of leaves and logs only, the remarkable taste of an ingenious scholar emends the reading of the MSS, which surely needs no defence, to οὐ πέταλον οὐδὲ κορμόν.

580. MSS λέγων, which Reiske retained, reading εὐτεκνωτάτην τέ σε. λέγων has been corrected to λέγον in Aa, which is found also in other MSS. The omission of the augment, though not common, occurs sometimes in long ῥήσεις, and as Talthybius was immediately before repeating the comments of the crowd, it seems natural to refer τοιάδε to their remarks: if this is so, we should read λέγον.

595. ἀνθρωποι. Hermann for MSS ἀνθρώποις.

620. τ', εὐτεκνώτατε G. Other MSS κεῦτεκνώτατε: cf. n. in commentary.

624. πλουσίοισι. I have written this for πλουσίοις ἐν. The sense is 'we are puffed up, some of us by our wealth, others by our reputation among our fellow-citizens.' ὀγκοῦσθαι is used with the dative, or sometimes with ἐπί: never with ἐν, which seems to have been introduced into this line through a mistaken idea of its parallelism with the next, the structure of which is quite different.

626. Reiske's conjecture τὰ δ' οὐδὲν ἀλλ' ἤ is very tempting.

665. ὕπερ AEL, ἀπο BG. ὕπερ would be more likely to be corrupted than ἀπο, as its use here is somewhat unusual: cf. n. in commentary.

742. προσθείμεθ' ἂν AE. προσθείμεθα other MSS.

758. Probably a line has fallen out after this verse. If this view is correct, Hecuba and Agamemnon speak in couplets from 752, where she turns to address him, to 761, where they commence a dialogue in

single lines. In Aa 756—758 are missing: in F they have been added by a second hand in the margin, and are also found (in the original hand) after 779. Kirchhoff's theory is that the archetype was written in pages of 20 lines, and that 755 ended a page (as it does in A): then by the copyist's error the next four lines, 756—758 and a fourth line now lost, were omitted, but added at the bottom of the next page, thus accounting for their insertion in F after 779, and that the fourth line, being at the very bottom of the page, got worn away and so entirely lost.

793—797 have been rejected either wholly or in part by most editors. I have retained them and believe them to be defensible. For the interpretation cf. n. in commentary.

820. τί Aa. πῶς other MSS.

821. γὰρ ὄντες AL. τοσοῦτοι or τοσολδε other MSS.

831, 832. Two verses, the many variants in which make it probable that they are not genuine, follow here. Prinz gives them as follows: ἐκ τοῦ σκότου γὰρ τῶν τε νυκτέρων βροτοῖς | φίλτρων μέγιστη γίγνεται βροτοῖς χάρις.

847. τῆς ἀνάγκης. The MSS have τὰς ἀνάγκας, which I have with some hesitation altered. The accus. was probably due to the feeling that an object to διώρισαν was required. None of the explanations of the ordinary text seem satisfactory.

850. ἔγωγε LG: other MSS give ἐγὼ σέ.

859. δ' ἐμοί. Elmsley for MSS δέ σοι.

947. ἀπώλεσεν. There seems no need for ἀπούρισεν or ἀπήλασεν: see instances of ἐξαπόλλυμι in n. in commentary.

950. οἰζύς. Porson corrected the MSS διζύς.

953. Nauck would expel this line.

967. ἀφικόμην. Prinz's conjecture ἐφεισπόμην is unnecessary. Instances of careless writing, such as the repetition of ἀφικόμην here after its use above 964, are frequent in Euripides: see n. in commentary on supr. 527.

970—975. Suspected lines. Porson condemned 971, though the irregularity of construction is easily paralleled. Dindorf rejects all six lines: Hartung, with whom I incline to agree, the three lines 973—975. They are singularly weak, and have the appearance of an unintelligent adscript.

1000. ἔστ', ὦ. Hermann for MSS ἔστω.

1013. Some read πέπλων ἔντος ἢ κρύψας' ἔχεις; The alternative offered by ἦ seems better.

1026. ἐκπεσεῖ. Hermann for MSS ἐκπέσῃ. If the latter is retained, we must place a comma only at δίκην: but the construction is then very harsh.

φίλων κερδέων is Herwerden's attractive conjecture for φίλας καρδίας.

1030. οὐ. Hemsterhuis for MSS οὐ.

συμπίπτει is the form given by our best MS A; the other MSS and the corrector of A give συμπίπτει. πινῶ is generally banished from the texts.

1042. ἐπεσπείσωμεν. Possibly we should read ἐπεσπάλσωμεν: cf. supr. 116, and n. in commentary.

1055. βέοντι: others read ζέοντι.

1058. I have changed the punctuation of this passage: for the interpretation cf. n. in commentary. The usual punctuation is τετράποδος βάσιν θηρὸς δρεστέρου | τιθέμενος ἐπὶ χεῖρα κατ' ἔχνος; ποίαν | ἥ ταύταν ἢ τάνδ' | ἐξαλλάξω, τὰς | ἀνδροφόνους κ.τ.λ., to interpret which is difficult.

1074. Perhaps we should read ἀρνύμενος λώβας λύμας τ' ἀντίποινα ἑμᾶς: comparing supr. 213, and infr. 1098. ἀρνύμενος λώβαν is very harsh: for the usual interpretation, cf. n. in commentary. ἀρν. ἀντίποινα on the contrary is a natural expression.

1087. δαίμων ἔδωκεν ὅστις ἐστὶ σοι βαρὺς, which had been inserted here from 723, by a copyist probably who did not see that ἐστὶ is to be supplied in l. 1086, was rejected by Hermann.

1100. αἰθέρ' is found in the MSS before ἀμπτάμενος, though a scholiast marks it as superfluous: it was no doubt a gloss on οὐράνιον μέλαθρον.

1101. ὑψιπέτης, the reading of L, I have adopted: it should be taken closely with ἀμπτάμενος. ὑψιπετὴς (which L. and S. render 'fallen from heaven') is the usual reading: the former is of course connected with πέτεσθαι, the latter with πεσεῖν.

1151. χειρὸς. Milton for MSS χεῖρες.

1153. θάκους. Hermann for MSS θάκουν.

1174. Rejected by Prinz.

1185, 1186. Dindorf rejects these lines, and is followed by most editors. I see no reason for excision. The verses are quoted by Stobaeus, so that if spurious they must have been inserted 700 years before the date of our earliest MS. The fact that the chorus, infr. 1238, speak two verses only might be regarded as *contributory* evidence of their importation, but to start from it, as Paley does, is surely rash. None of the conjectures of Hermann, Nauck and others are satisfactory:

accordingly I have printed an emendation of my own. The MSS give *πολλὰ γὰρ ἡμῶν, αἱ μὲν εἰς' ἐπίφθονοι, | αἱ δ' εἰς ἀριθμὸν τῶν κακῶν πεφύκαμεν*, the sense of which is manifestly worse than weak, to say nothing of the harshness of the syntax. I have written *πολλὰ γὰρ ἐσμέν· αἱ μὲν εἰς' ἐπίφθονοι, | αἱ δ' εἰς ἀριθμὸν οὐ κακῶν πεφύκαμεν*. The concession naturally comes first (*αἱ μὲν εἰς' ἐπίφθονοι*), while the use of the *third* person dissociates the speaker from the class, who after all are spoken of as *ἐπίφθονοι* only, i.e. exposed to bad feeling: the vindication naturally comes last, and is equally naturally in the first person, while *οὐ κακῶν* seems to me the very expression wanted here, conveying an idea of proper self-esteem with studied moderation: cf. I. A. 498 where Menelaus says *ἀνδρὸς οὐ κακοῦ τρόποι | τοιοῖδε* in a very similar spirit: so too fr. 218 *κόσμος δὲ σιγῆς στέφανος ἀνδρὸς οὐ κακοῦ*. Soph. Aj. 550 *ὦ παῖ, γένοιο πατρὸς εὐτυχέστερος, | τὰ δ' ἄλλ' ὅμοιος, καὶ γένοι' ἀν οὐ κακός*. The omission of *αἱ μὲν* in A (the only variation in the MSS) may be merely a slip of the copyist, or may have been subsequent to the corruption of *ἐσμέν* into *ἡμῶν* (a natural corruption enough, owing to the following subdivision *αἱ μὲν...αἱ δέ*).

1197. *φήσ* is better than *φήσ'*, as the use of *Ἀγαμέμνονος* in the next line shows that Hecuba is here addressing Polymestor, not Agamemnon.

1199. Hermann's conjectures *πρῶτα ποῦ ποτ'* with the interrogation at *γένος*, and in 1201 *οὐτᾶν* (the MSS give *οὐτ'*, which Dindorf corrected to *οὐδ'* found in the text) seem probable.

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